



## Divided We Fall

2.05

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A wide shot of space. Complete, empty space. Until a faint speck of something is seen in the distance. We are slowly creeping up on an object in space. We're able to make out that it's the Avalon. It's nacelles are dark, it's lights off, and shows no signs of life. It's adrift.

ZORIN(V.O.)

We'll run, now that we're a family again.

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

In a dark stretch of corridor, we see Avalon crewmembers laying on the floor. They are completely unconscious. One is the Orion female GOR'TIEN. Another is AZEL. Another is RIDEK. Many others are ones we haven't met yet.

AZEL(V.O.)

We can't get the engines back online! They're shot!

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

On the bridge, there are only two people. ZORIN and SIREN. Both are out as well. Their chests heave, gasping for breath.

SIREN(V.O.)

(urgently)

I'm detecting three more Cult cruisers! They're bearing down on us!

INT. AVALON - ADELE'S QUARTERS

ADELE TIERNAN is huddled on the ground, several candles are surrounding her which have long since given way to darkness. She holds a familiar picture in her arms. A picture of happier times with two other Cultists.

ADELE(V.O.)

I should at least tell you that I really do care for you.

INT. AVALON - HATCH'S QUARTERS

THOMAS HATCH is as we left him, in his bed. He is just like the others, bathed in darkness and searching for any air left around him.

HATCH(V.O.)

(somberly)

I didn't think it would end this way. After all we've been through, this is how we're going out.

INT. AVALON - CARGO BAY

There's barely enough light to even see, but we can make out a single form in the darkness. We slowly pan down to ISAAC SAROLA, who's unconscious on the deck. He almost appears dead.

ISAAC(V.O.)

(weakly)

I won't let him murder me. Not with everyone else.

Dead silence.

Suddenly, a rectangular spot of light slides across his body. The door of the airlock is opening. A strong rush of air sends waves across Isaac's body.

We turn to see the comparatively blinding light and the shadows of several men in the threshold.

The light only grows brighter until we can see only white...

VOICE(V.O.)

...ake up...

INT. AVALON - ENGINEERING

Engineering is dark and powered down, as expected. The floor is lined with crewmembers who've simply collapsed but our focus is drawn directly to SHERA. We pan down to her face.

VOICE

(echoing, distant)

Shera...

She's still out.

VOICE(CONT'D)

(same)

Shera...

Her eyes open.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Are you dead?

INT. AVALON - CARGO BAY

Three men now stand over Isaac's body. One very large and hulking man bends down and picks up the Avalon's medic with ease. Isaac is a mere doll in his arms.

SHERA (V.O.)

Should we be? Shouldn't this be the end?

VOICE (V.O.)

Maybe. Maybe you're better off that way.

The hulking man, whose face we still aren't able to see because of the light coming from beyond the airlock, looks around at the lifeless cargo bay.

SHERA (V.O.)

What do you mean?

VOICE

It's coming Shera. Redemption. The hate is boiling over and someone is going to get caught in the crossfire. Someone will pay the price.

SHERA (V.O.)

What am I supposed to do?

The three men walk back towards the light. They step into it and the door shuts, leaving the room in blackness again.

Silence.

SHERA (CONT'D)

What am I supposed to do?

VOICE (V.O.)

Remember. Remember that nothing is forever.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MEDICAL BAY

All is fuzzy, just as we left. Except now instead of the Avalon's cargo bay we're in a sterile environment of white steel and comforting gray biobeds. Isaac opens his eyes and sits up in a fluid motion. He scans the fairly large medical ward. Doctors roam from table to table, occasionally tending to patients. Confusion dominating Isaac's face, he's greeted by a DOCTOR clad in white robes and a face mask.

DOCTOR  
(happily)  
He's awake!

ISAAC  
Who the fuck--

The doctor quickly puts a device onto Isaac's chest, and the sound of a heart monitor closely follows.

DOCTOR  
Rapid decompression isn't the healthiest way to spend your vacation. Tell me, why'd he want to spend his down time in the cold of space?

The doctor puts another device onto Isaac's head. More beeping is heard.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
I don't know though. You may still be cold in the middle.

ISAAC  
Cold?

DOCTOR  
Exactly my thoughts. Particularly in regards to who captained his ship.

ISAAC  
Hey, will you just answer my ques...

The doctor puts yet another device onto his stomach.

DOCTOR  
Like that kid in that fairy tale,  
won't give up.

ISAAC  
I'm seriou...

Another device, this one on his leg. Like an animal being trifled with, Isaac pulls the device off and throws it against the wall. He stands up to the doctor.

ISAAC  
Where am I?!

DOCTOR  
He's a sturdy one though. No  
apparent side effects. He's  
recovered well.

ISAAC  
You keep talking to me like that,  
I'll split your head open!

The doctor then lowers his face mask, looks Isaac dead in the eyes, and bears his teeth.

DOCTOR  
Yeah? Well, come on in.

Isaac is confused still. Finally, the doctor removes an unseen earpiece from his head which he was using to communicate with someone other than Isaac.

Behind Isaac, a door into the ward opens and a tall man strides in. He's wearing a leather outfit, dons stubble across his face, and his black hair is slicked back. This is ROAN. He exudes an air of authority.

ROAN  
(to the doctor)  
He been told?

DOCTOR  
All he knows is what he heard over  
the wire just now.

Roan nearly smiles.

ROAN  
He's in for a trip then.

DOCTOR  
You think he'll join?

ROAN

Fucker doesn't look like he'd stand  
a minute outside this ward, much  
less serve onboard this ship.

Isaac tries to lunge at Roan, but the doctor keeps him away.

ISAAC

(angry)

You people better stop talking to  
me like this.

ROAN

Or what? You'll hurt one of us?

On cue, BOTH men whip out fairly large knives and brandish them at Avalon's medic. With determination, Isaac stands fast.

ROAN(CONT'D)

Keep talking like that, I'll feed  
you to my targ piece by piece.  
You're only here and out of pain  
because Cap wants you that way.

ISAAC

Who's Cap?

ROAN

The Captain, dimwit.

ISAAC

Where am I? Can you at least tell  
me that?

ROAN

You are in a place that demands you  
keep your trap shut till Cap gets here.

DOCTOR

Otherwise, I'll sow it shut.

The doctor nods to a medical tray beside Isaac's bed. Needles and sowing wire are seen there, proving that the doctor was literal. Sweat starts to accumulate on Isaac's brow. He sighs.

ISAAC

Fine. I'll wait.

Isaac slowly perches himself on his bed. Someone at the end of the medical bay catches his eye. A Xindi. No, two Xindi. Three. Four. Four Xindi doctors. Isaac's eyes widen.

ISAAC (CONT'D)  
Confederates. You people are  
Confederates.

ROAN  
(to the doctor)  
Told ya. He just now figures it out  
and you ask if he could serve on  
this ship.

DOCTOR  
Right. More than a little slow,  
this one.

ISAAC  
(annoyed)  
I assume you've already taken what  
you wanted from Avalon, killed her  
crew?

ROAN  
Piece of junk didn't have much to  
take. That little Xindi girl though,  
she's a piece. Might make her my  
personal doll.

DOCTOR  
(laughing)  
Right, and the hairy Deltan. Once  
we get that thing out of her belly,  
I call dibs on her.  
(more laughs)  
The things I'd do to her. I can  
already feel it, burying myself  
deep into her...

In rage at this remark, Isaac grabs the sowing needle from  
the medical tray and shoves it into the doctor's eye!

The doctor's laughing turns to screaming agony. Roan  
restrain's Isaac as he squirms with disdain.

ISAAC  
You won't lay a single finger on  
her, you hear me?! DO YOU?!

Roan clutches Isaac by the head and slides the knife under  
his chin. Roan is close enough to whisper into Isaac's ear.

ROAN  
Ooooh, you've crossed that line now  
boy.

(MORE)

ROAN (CONT'D)

Cap may be coming all the way down here from the bridge only to find your decapitated corpse decorating the floor.

ISAAC

Do it. I'd rather die than listen to you scum any longer. You people are despicable.

A beat passes as the doctor writhes on the floor in pain, clutching his impaled eye. None of the other doctors help, some even take amusement to his plight.

VOICE(V.O.)

What in the hell is going on here?

A loud, booming voice echoes through the ward. Roan plants Isaac chest-first into the bed and holds him there under his knife. Isaac can't see who spoke, nor can we.

ROAN

You're boy partially blinded the doc. We was just having some fun and he flipped out.

VOICE(V.O.)

I thought I told you to leave him alone until I got here.

ROAN

Sorry Cap, he kept egging us on. Telling us he wanted to do some unspeakable things to our mothers. Truly and honestly, I was appalled. He's just got a temper on him.

A beat.

VOICE(V.O.)

If I recall, he never used to.

Isaac's eyes narrow as he seems to recognize the voice. The unknown speaker comes to Isaac and pulls him to greet each other face-to-face. Standing before Isaac is...

Isaac's former General: FREDRICK HARQUIN. At this sight, Isaac looks shocked like we've never seen. Harquin now looks hardened, gruff, and older with scars lining his face and a missing eye.

HARQUIN

Then again, we all change.

On this, we...

CUT TO:

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - CONFERENCE ROOM

The Confederate conference room is much more lavish than we'd typically expect. It looks much more like what we'd see on a ship from Hatch's time with wood and gold, plants, and a window panorama looking out to the stars. The long conference table is occupied by three people: Isaac, Harquin, and Roan. They are all silent and seems like they've been silent for some time.

HARQUIN

It's up to you Sarola. We can talk and work this out or we can give each other the cold shoulder for the rest of ever.

Isaac looks away.

ROAN

I'm telling you Cap, fellow soldier or not, we should just leave him to rot with the others.

HARQUIN

Roan, shut the hell up.

He does so. But this leaves the room in silence again.

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

I don't want it to come to that Isaac. But if you are going to ignore me to the bitter end, then I won't be left with any choice but to leave you with your ship. Dead in space. I know why you hate me right now, I know exactly what you want to say, and I want to hear you say it as much as you want it out. So just say it Isaac.

ISAAC

(bitter)

Why?

Harquin nods as the word is finally said.

HARQUIN

It all started when...

ISAAC

(loudly)

No! I don't want to hear your sob life story. I don't care about the circumstances that brought you here and I don't want to catch up. I only want to know why you've betrayed Jushai and sided with the very same people who annihilated our world.

HARQUIN

Technically, the Confederates aren't solely of Duranon decent. They're from dozens of worlds...

ISAAC

(same)

Goddamn it.

(a beat)

You're right about one thing: we all change. The General I used to know didn't give a crap about technicalities and especially wouldn't use them to soften the hate someone feels toward him. For all I care, the Duranon and the Xindi are responsible for creating the Confederates and I want to know why you're working for them after spending your life trying to defeat them.

(a silence)

You're a traitor.

Harquin sits closer to the table with a cold stare.

HARQUIN

Did you come out of that war the same person you were before? You were only in a handful of battles, New Terria and a few minor skirmishes afterward, and you've become someone else entirely. How do you think I would be after fighting a whole war? Leading thousands of troops to their certain death, day after day of fighting battles that I knew I'd lose long before I even set foot on the battlefield.

(MORE)

HARQUIN (CONT'D)

Then, spending seven years of my life trying to avoid the Confederates and their bloodhunt for me. What you fail to see Isaac, is that while they burned me and beat me down... they also revived me and got me back on my feet. They gave my life a purpose. Above else, they finally gave me peace after a whole life of bitter conflict. Yes, I may be a traitor to a world that's been dead for fifteen years, but I've restored some dignity to my life.

ISAAC

Dignity? The Confederates aren't exactly what I'd call dignified. Murderers, rapists, slavers... the worst of any civilization all rolled into one galactic empire.

HARQUIN

These people may not be the apex of civilization, but as the captain of this vessel I've never been more at peace. You may not see yourself in my exact shoes, but certainly know the strife I've had to face.

ISAAC

Sure, but you don't see me clamoring to get myself converted to a Red. You simply ran from your burdens instead of facing them.

(with force)

As a soldier, you're supposed to fight those whom you oppose to death. Not until you're tired.

HARQUIN

One can't go up against the Confederacy and win. Suicide is no more dignified than treason.

ISAAC

Every soldier you've led into battle knew they were committing suicide by partaking in that war. Will you sit there and tell me that their deaths were undignified?

Harquin and Isaac stare holes into each other. A long silence ensues.

ROAN

Hey guys, while it's not that I don't find this all amusing--and I do--we should try to remember we're working in a bit of a time frame here.

HARQUIN

Agreed.

(a pause)

Well Isaac, will you calm down enough to listen to what I have to say?

Isaac sits back into his chair and folds his arms.

ISAAC

(sighing)

Go ahead.

HARQUIN

Right now, we're just outside broken space. Obviously, right next to Cult territory. We've towed your ship into normal space but it's still offline. First of all, what were you doing in broken space? If we'd arrived ten minutes later, you'd all be dead.

ROAN

Yeah, and easier to loot.

Isaac sends Roan a cold glare before turning back to Harquin.

ISAAC

A stupid decision put us in broken space. Our captain wanted to save someone stupid enough to get caught by the Cult. With every fiber of my being, I fought his decision. Even threatened to leave the ship if he went through with it. And he did, giving me some crap about how the family needs to be together. We went to the planet the idiot Hatch was on and saved his ass seconds before his head was laid on a chopping block. We got him, left, and ran like hell. But a Red cruiser was bearing down on us.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

We managed to evade them for a while, but three more cruisers decided to join the hunt. So, captain made the stupidest decision yet. Powered down all engines and had us drift into broken space. Sure, we evaded the cruisers but we couldn't get our systems back up. Engines were shot from then on out. After a while, life support started going. I was on my way to the airlock when I finally collapsed.

HARQUIN

Why the airlock?

ISAAC

To make the passage from life to death easier.

ROAN

(a laugh)

Talk about undignified suicide.

ISAAC

(defensive)

I wasn't going to let him murder me. Not with everyone else.

HARQUIN

I take it you no longer want to stay on your ship, the Avalon? Do you hate them?

ISAAC

It's not my ship that I hate, it's the captain. Stupid decision after stupid decision.

Harquin nods.

HARQUIN

Either way, your ship is safe and sound for the moment. Crew is still out but we assume they're fine too.

ISAAC

There's a woman onboard who's pregnant. If you had any sense of pride you'd see to her. She's been through too much for her to lose her kid.

Harquin nods.

HARQUIN

Fine. But right now, we need you to answer some questions. Primarily about your ship.

ISAAC

Like what?

HARQUIN

Why does it have a Cult nacelle?

ISAAC

That's a long story. Let's just say, it's also a result of a stupid decision on Zorin's part.

HARQUIN

Several weeks ago, did you encounter another Confederate ship?

ISAAC

How'd you know?

HARQUIN

The Confederates aren't necessarily a unified organization, but we do have channels.

ISAAC

Did you hear what they wanted from us?

HARQUIN

Nothing specific. All I remember was someone blew the ship to hell. Themselves in the process.

Isaac nods.

ISAAC

They only wanted to loot us. Someone on Avalon didn't like that too much and took one for the team. Idiotic, but noble I guess.

Harquin seems suspicious.

HARQUIN

Well, we're far too close to Cult space to linger here any longer than we have to.

(MORE)

HARQUIN (CONT'D)

Your ship will need to get back up and running to jog alongside us so we'll need your engineers woke up.

ISAAC

Why were you guys out here in the first place?

HARQUIN

Scouting.

ISAAC

For what?

HARQUIN

That's none of your business. Just be thankful we were here to begin with.

ISAAC

And after all this is done? What will you do with my ship?

Harquin thinks.

HARQUIN

Well, I guess that would be up to you.

ISAAC

What do you mean?

HARQUIN

All of Avalon's crew is asleep, I'm willing to let them all wake up not knowing what happened and let them fly merrily on their way.

ISAAC

Doesn't sound very Confederate of you.

HARQUIN

Right. It sounds Jushian.

ISAAC

Maybe.

(a beat)

Maybe you're more similar than I remember.

Harquin offers a smile. This expression defies his gruff physique.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Once again in the dark corridors of Avalon, we linger on the sad sight of several people on the ground. They're alone until one person emerges from the darkness. Shera.

SHERA

Why are they still out?

VOICE

The Confederates. They're keeping them asleep.

Shera is stunned, then she hears commotion in the distance. In a connecting corridor, we see two armed Confederates with flashlights storm by. They are gone as quickly as they were heard.

SHERA(V.O.)

Confederates?! How'd this happen?

VOICE

They saved Avalon. Saved your lives.

SHERA(V.O.)

I know the Confederates, they wouldn't have saved us if they didn't want us for something.

VOICE

Maybe. That may also be why everyone is still asleep.

SHERA(V.O.)

Are you responsible for waking me up?

VOICE

Yes. If I hadn't, you wouldn't be able to save those you love.

SHERA(V.O.)

From what? This "wrath" you spoke of?

VOICE

Of course. Judgment day. The day the good and the evil take sides.

Shera turns and looks to see Ridek lying on the ground. Surprised, she hurries to his side.

SHERA

Ridek, wake up!

VOICE

He can't hear you. He can feel you,  
your presence, but he can't hear you.

She ponders this for a brief second. She then leans in and puts her lips to his.

Almost like magic, he awakens. They take a moment.

RIDEK

(groggy)

Is this what you do when people sleep?

She smiles at his humor.

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - HARQUIN'S QUARTERS

A glass. The glass is filled with a golden liquid. We pan out to see Harquin is filling the cup as Isaac sits in a chair and watches.

ISAAC

What is it?

HARQUIN

A little something from a colony we  
raided three years ago, back when I  
was only second in command. I'm  
told it was the finest in their world.

ISAAC

'Was'?

HARQUIN

Can't say they were on the best  
terms with the Confederacy.

We pull back to see the room in general. It's rather humble, with only a few knick-knacks on shelves or on the wall. There are windows to the stars and that's it. Isaac sits back and tries it. He begins to cough after downing it.

ISAAC

(coughing)

Not bad.

HARQUIN

It gets better the more you drink  
it. I don't indulge in it too often  
anymore because there are only six  
bottles left in the universe.

ISAAC

I'd just get it over with. Idiotic to cling to something long dead.

Harquin nods.

HARQUIN

I didn't ask you here to talk about my alcohol selection. I wanted to talk about Avalon. Specifically what we want from you.

ISAAC

I thought you said you'd let us go.

HARQUIN

Like any Confederate, conditions apply.

Isaac is somewhat disenchanted.

ISAAC

You know we won't join you. We may be thieves, we may have even done some very Confederate like things in the past, but we won't cross that point of no return.

HARQUIN

I wasn't going to ask you to join us. In fact, I think this *request* will free you from us AND the Cult.

ISAAC

What would that be?

Harquin sits in another chair and drinks some of the golden liquid.

HARQUIN

You've said it's idiotic to cling to something long dead. I disagree. I feel we absolutely *must* hang onto the memories of the dead. Just like you and me, two of only a small percent of people left in the galaxy from the great Jushai Prime. I may be Confederate, but I've not lost my dedication to preserving our memory.

ISAAC

What do you want from us Harquin?

Harquin looks out the windows.

HARQUIN

Your ship, the Avalon, is in grave danger of being destroyed. Your life is in danger, thus the memory of Jushai Prime is in danger. Not from the Cult, not from the Confederates, but from the man who's risking the well being of your people to go on foolish, inexcusable quests to satisfy his own wants and desires. I want you to end his tyranny.

Isaac is shocked.

ISAAC

What?

HARQUIN

To keep your family safe. So you do not suffer the pain of loosing those you care about yet again. I too am on a quest: to preserve and dignify the lives of those who've lost everything on Jushai Prime. From everything I told me to everything I read in the logs your ship keeps, I cannot rightly fulfill this quest if I let your captain remain where he is.

Isaac is still taken back. He stands up and paces.

ISAAC

You're asking me to betray him.

HARQUIN

Yes. I am. I have no delusions of this being any other request, but even you know that this appeal is a valid one.

Isaac is silent as he take it in. Harquin stands and sides by him.

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

I know what you're thinking, yet again. This time, however, it's from experience. I had the same trouble, the same desire to hold up the principles I believed in back on Jushai: to adhere to your commander because he knows best.

(MORE)

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

That was until the day a man named Tommis Bovio came to me. He lost everything in the war too, and he did for me what I want to do for you.

(looking around)

This ship as you see it now once looked a lot like your ship: broken, a tattered mess, barely holding together and, even worse, it's crew in jeopardy of being snubbed out of life because of a self-interested captain. Everything since his death has been comparable heaven.

Isaac is still silent.

HARQUIN

But, it's up to you. If you wish to decline my offer, it's yours to decline. Just know that it's yours to accept, as well.

ISAAC

No. What you ask is too far. I can't to that.

Harquin nods.

HARQUIN

If you think your captain can change his tune...

ISAAC

That's not what I mean. I mean that I don't want Zorin killed because of what he's done. Despite all he's done wrong, he's done plenty right. He a man of distinction... but you're right. Absolutely. They are my family. I have to protect them.

Harquin's face lifts.

ISAAC(CONT'D)

Zorin can keep his life. However...

His voice trails off, as if the obvious dawns on him.

ISAAC(CONT'D)

He can't keep his ship. Avalon belongs to me.

On this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

Outside the Avalon and the slightly larger Confederate ship, we see an approaching Cult ship. However, the Cult ship is much smaller than a cruise and only twice the size of the Avalon.

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - BRIDGE

On the very uniform Confederate bridge, manned by people who look worse off than the Avalon crew, Harquin stands over a railing looking at the viewscreen. Isaac joins Harquin's side.

ISAAC

What's going on?

Cap nods to the screen.

HARQUIN

Cult. A scout by the look of it.  
Don't worry, we'll handle the  
situation.

ISAAC

"Handle"? I don't think we should  
"handle" this situation like you're  
planning. We're way too close to  
Cult space to just outright destroy  
it. If we do, it'll send out an  
emergency beacon and a whole fleet  
will be on us in a matter of hours,  
hours we need to get the Avalon's  
other systems back up and running.

HARQUIN

We'll be out of range before those  
hours are up.

(to his officers)

Weapons, lock on and get ready to fire.

ISAAC

(serious)

No, wait! I'm serious Harquin,  
Avalon has had more than it's share  
of Cult run-ins in the past.

HARQUIN

(loudly)

Then what do you suggest we do? Let it go and let it tell the Cult everything about us?

ISAAC

Disable the ship and jam it's communication.

HARQUIN

We can't be guaranteed that's going to work. They might have a Seer on board and we can't jam Seers.

ISAAC

And we can't jam their final distress beacons. If we just destroy them, we will guarantee a much larger Cult ship arriving to finish the job.

Harquin weighs the possible outcomes. He shakes his head and looks to his officers.

HARQUIN

Destroy it.

Isaac looks defeated. Harquin acknowledges him.

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

I appreciate your advice, but we can't take the chance. I'd rather work against the clock than against a Red Cruiser.

EXT. SPACE

The Confederate ship charges the Cult scout ship and fires all weapons from a stationary point. It does very little to damage the Cult ship however as it's practically impervious to the attack.

We close up on the Confederate's cargo bay. It opens slowly and lets slip dozens of small canisters. These canisters glide towards the Cult scout ship and open up. Clouds of very small particles fly out and continue onward.

We ZOOM in to an extreme magnification to see that this swarm consists of tiny machines. Each one attaches itself to the Red hull and begins to dig it's way into the metal.

It's a mere matter of seconds before the scout is sparking and breaking apart.

Large cracks form all over the ship, Cultists begin to slip out into space, and it's only moments until the ship darkens and dies. It seemed hopeless for the Cult ship.

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - BRIDGE

Isaac remains disappointed. Harquin puts his shoulder on his former soldier.

HARQUIN

As a rule, I never let a Cult that gets near my ship live. They had a hand in the downfall of Jushai Prime and I'm just returning the favor. In what little doses I can.

ISAAC

You're on a vendetta.

HARQUIN

(nodding)

You should be as well. To kill each and every one for what they did. I know you haven't moved past that.

Harquin leaves the bridge. At this, Isaac looks concerned. He rushes off as well.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

On the bridge, it's clear Shera and Ridek haven't had much luck getting information out of the computer. Ridek looks angered.

RIDEK

This isn't working. Ava needs to be online for me to do anything of use. All our active systems are routed through her. If I had enough time, I could reroute system taps across this deck, but...

His voice fades. We pan over and focus on Shera, who seems lost.

SHERA(V.O.)

I need to know, please just tell me. Who's going to pay the price of retribution? Who's life is in jeopardy?

VOICE

The one who deserves it most is the one who is most innocent.

She's visibly annoyed.

SHERA(V.O.)  
 I'm tired of this cryptic bullshit.  
 (a beat)  
 Tell me, will it be me? Azel? Who?

A mild silence.

VOICE  
 Seize your only chance, Shera.  
 Seize the day, for the night draws  
 closer.

She rubs her temples. Suddenly, a hand is placed on her shoulder from behind which startles her. It's Ridek.

RIDEK  
 Scare you? You were zoning out.

SHERA  
 (weary)  
 I know. I'm just feeling a little sick.

RIDEK  
 Well, you can lie down. I'm  
 thinking of trying to find a way to  
 activate Ava so we can get some  
 progress done around here. Who  
 knows how long we'll have to do  
 this and I intend to seize the chance.

Shera looks up at Ridek as his words are spoken. She looks shocked and Ridek picks up on her dismay.

RIDEK(CONT'D)  
 What?

Her dismay subsides.

SHERA  
 Seize the day. Act now or it'll  
 never happen.

She stands up and closes in on Ridek.

SHERA(V.O.)  
 Don't think I'm weird. I've been  
 meaning to do this for a while.

Quickly and with little thought, she plants a kiss onto Ridek's lips and holds him to her tightly. Ridek is understandably a little overwhelmed, but he gives in. They stay like this for a few moments... until a cough is heard.

They both dis-embrace and look to the door. Standing there is Isaac Sarola and two Confederates.

RIDEK  
Isaac! You're awake!

ISAAC  
(sarcastic)  
Don't mind us. If I were you, I'd be making out too, rather than trying to find out what's going on with the ship.

RIDEK  
Well, I kinda was but... got distracted.

Isaac smirks a bit and walks in.

RIDEK(CONT'D)  
(with apprehension)  
Isaac, what's with the Confeds?

ISAAC  
Don't worry, they're not going to hurt us.

RIDEK  
Like hell, that's what they do.

ISAAC  
Not these ones.

Ridek goes to a console and enters a few commands. Lights activate and sounds are heard as the ship comes to life.

ISAAC(CONT'D)  
I need you to start waking people up. Everyone except Zorin. I'll take care of him.

RIDEK  
What's going on?

ISAAC  
Seizing my chance. That's all.

Ridek is confused.

RIDEK  
"Seizing my chance"? Did you hear us? What's going on?!

Shera shakes her head. She looks scared.

SHERA  
Taking the ship.  
(looking to Isaac)  
You're taking control of the ship.

He stares at Shera for a moment, then nods.

ISAAC  
Ridek, I need to speak with you.

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Isaac and Ridek walk out of the bridge and into the joining corridor. The doors close and they are alone.

RIDEK  
Is she right? Are you taking over  
the ship?

ISAAC  
Yes. I am.

RIDEK  
You can't be serious! You're no  
captain.

ISAAC  
Maybe not, but neither is Zorin.

Ridek realizes Isaac's motivations.

RIDEK  
(scornfully)  
That's what this is about. You  
don't like the calls he's made so  
instead of following them, you...

Isaac throws his back hand against Ridek's face! This effectively silences him.

ISAAC  
Don't start. I don't want to hear  
it from anyone on this ship. From  
here on out, this is my ship and I  
make the rules. I'm your captain!

Isaac calms down.

RIDEK  
You won't make it too far by  
dealing with your problems like  
that. Zorin wouldn't have done that.

ISAAC

No, Zorin would've ran and hid.  
Zorin would've put his faith into  
anyone with a sob story to tell and  
compromised the security of his ship.

RIDEK

But that's exactly what you're  
doing. Not waking Zorin up because  
you don't want to face him. Putting  
your faith into the Confederates  
because they helped us. You're not  
supposed to trust Confederates, no  
matter who you are.

ISAAC

I don't trust them. Despite the  
fact that the man who saved us is  
the man who led me into war, I  
still don't trust them. Which is  
also why I'm complying. I'm afraid  
that if I don't do this, he might  
do something to hurt us worse than  
we are now. Confederates change men  
into monsters, into weapons that  
strike at our hearts first and then  
our bodies.

(nodding)

I may be tougher and more strict,  
but I won't let anyone else on this  
ship get hurt. You're all I got.

Ridek also calms and leans against the bulkhead.

RIDEK

You wanted to talk with me out here  
alone. Is there something you don't  
want Shera to hear?

(a grave realization, fear)

What are you going to do with the  
Xindi?

Isaac hears this and begins to leave.

ISAAC

Get everyone awake.

RIDEK

Don't pull a Zorin and walk away  
from the question Isaac!

He responds by stopping. He sends Ridek a cold stare.

ISAAC  
Say your goodbyes while you have  
your chance.

Isaac exits the corridor quicker than Ridek can respond.  
Ridek is left with his words in his mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - ADELE'S QUARTERS

The doors to Adele's quarters open and Isaac is seen walking in, carrying an unconscious Adele in his arms. The doors close as he takes her and sets her on on her bed. He politely pulls the covers over her sleeping body and gently places his hand on her forehead. At this, she wakes.

ADELE  
(half-asleep)  
Isaac? What happened?

ISAAC  
(quietly)  
Nothing. Go back to sleep. When you  
wake up, everything will be fine.  
Better than fine. Better than it was.

ADELE  
Did someone save us?

He nods.

ISAAC  
Yeah. Someone did. Go to sleep, but  
when you wake you're door is going  
to be locked. Stay in your room  
until I give you the all-clear.

ADELE  
Why? What's going on?

ISAAC  
I'll explain later, but it's  
absolutely vital you stay here and  
not leave.

She accepts his warning.

ADELE  
Ok.

He lingers next to her for a moment.

ISAAC

I was thinking back to when you saved me. Back in New Terria.

ADELE

When do you not?

He smiles, taking it as a joke.

ISAAC

It's true. But everyone seems to think I'm crazy for dwelling on an event almost 2 decades ago.

ADELE

Hatch called you "creepy".

ISAAC

Yeah, I've heard that from time to time. The truth is simple: if it weren't for your random act of kindness, your reverence for life, I would not be here today. Hatch can call me creepy all he wants, but he hasn't lived the life I did. I got lucky one time in my life when you came into it.

Adele's furrowed brow indicates mild confusion.

ADELE

Isaac, it sounds like your atoning for something. Why? Are you about to do something?

He nods.

ISAAC

Yes. I just hope this act of kindness can match what you did for me in New Terria. Saving the lives of those on Avalon.

ADELE

Saving their lives from what? I don't understand.

Isaac doesn't want to say anymore, made clear as he stands up and slowly walks toward the door.

ISAAC

Just stay in here until someone comes for you.

ADELE

Wait. Here, take this.

She reaches into her gown and takes out a necklace. On it hangs the Cult's avian-like avatar. She hands it to Isaac and closes his hands around it.

ADELE (CONT'D)

I know you don't believe in what I believe. But keep this for... luck. Whatever you're going to do, I want you to make the right choice.

ISAAC

I will. I'm glad you weren't lying when you said you really do care for me. This time, however, we're not all about to suffocate. This time, we're going to be free.

Quickly, he stands and departs, leaving Adele to collapse back on her bed and sigh in contemplation.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - AVA'S CORE

In Ava's core room, Hatch is sitting by the main console. He's tinkering with the inner working of it but he's clearly not having any luck.

Mere seconds later, Ridek, Gor'Tien, and a previously unseen crewmate, TAL JUREK, come in.

Tal is a male Trill like Ridek, but much more buff. Possibly even more than Isaac.

HATCH

What's up guys?

RIDEK

(slightly shocked)

Hatch. What are you doing here?

HATCH

I'm pretty much always here. No one ever comes in here so I can be alone.

RIDEK

Well, you may want to be in on this. Zorin helps you too.

HATCH

What do you mean?

The three guests gather around Hatch.

RIDEK

It's Isaac. He's taking control of the ship.

Hatch is only mildly effected.

HATCH

Huh...

GOR'TIEN

Zorin saved your ass on Prime and on Tyrian! And you're not gonna stand up for him?

He thinks.

HATCH

Why's Isaac doing this?

RIDEK

For doing just that. You, Gor'Tien, Tal Jurek, Azel, Shera, and even myself. We were all saved from a miserable life by Zorin. He offered us a home and kept us safe. Isaac hates outsiders and he's going to really screw everything up if he takes over as captain.

HATCH

How do you know? Maybe he'll let everyone stay. He...

(trailing off)

No, I guess he wouldn't.

TAL

(deep voice)

No. He won't. Ridek's proposing we fight this. I won't let that man destroy this family. I'd rather die.

Hatch almost laughs.

HATCH

Well, either we succeed in stopping him or that's exactly what will happen.

RIDEK

So, are you with us?

Thomas sits back and thinks.

HATCH

Yeah. Yeah, I'm in. God forbid I  
have people who care for me now.  
Can't let that pass me up.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

We see the Confederate ship hovering over the Avalon like a care-giver. We slowly descend towards Avalon's hull. We speed up and enter through a window and straight down to see...

INT. AVALON - ENGINEERING

Engineering appears to have been restored to it's normal state. Although now it's buzzing with commotion and people trying to get the ship up and running again. We close in on Azel, who is standing in front of the holographic warp status display.

Shera walks in, her hands fiddling with themselves in an obvious display of anxiety. She sees and approaches Azel.

SHERA

Azel.

He notices her and offers a smile.

AZEL

Hey. Are you okay?

SHERA

(seriously)

No. We have to go.

AZEL

(confused)

Go? Where?

SHERA

Anywhere. We have to get off of  
Avalon. Something very bad is about  
to happen and we can't be here when  
it does.

AZEL

Wait, what? How do you know?

She waits before retorting. She's struggling with her words.

SHERA

Isaac is going to take control of Avalon. He already has. Ridek didn't have to tell me, but he did, that he's going to either leave us somewhere to die or kill us himself.

Azel seems disbelieving.

AZEL

Are you sure? Isaac isn't exactly fluffy pillows and kittens, but even he wouldn't go that far.

SHERA

It's not just what Ridek told me. I know he will do it if we stay here.

He gives into his cousin's demands.

AZEL

Okay, so what do we do? Take Hatch's shuttle and fly away?

SHERA

Yes. While we still have time. You can shut down Avalon's systems again so they can't follow us.

AZEL

(weary)

You do know that Avalon and that Confederate ship destroyed a Cult ship not an hour ago, don't you? It's pretty much guaranteed that a Cult cruiser will be here within the day because we couldn't block their distress calls. If I shut down the ship's systems, everyone onboard Avalon could die. Even worse, they could wind up Cult.

Shera looks around to make sure no other crew member is around.

SHERA

(whispering)

Do it anyway.

Azel starts to look shocked.

AZEL

(same)

How can you say that?

SHERA

Azel, these people have been a safe haven for us for a little over a year, but that's all they ever were. A respite from our ordinary lives of running from the world. If we don't run this time, we will end up dead. I can't let those important to me die. Isaac doesn't see us as part of his crew and any outsider is going to get booted into space. If they have to go down as a result, so be it. We've done worse in the past.

Azel still holds his look of shock, Shera is deadly serious.

SHERA(CONT'D)

Don't let your affection for this crew get in the way of our survival. One of us will pay the price if you do.

He shakes his head, in utter amazement.

AZEL

I... I'd have to think about it.

SHERA

Quickly. We don't have much time. Come get me when you're ready and we'll work out a plan.

She leans in and hugs her cousin, but Azel doesn't respond likewise. As she leaves, he leans on the holographic interface and wipes the sweat from his face.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. AVALON - CARGO HOLD

Zorin looks up and his eyes fill our view. Off screen, we hear the sound of doors sliding open.

We see the never-before-seen cargo hold. It's much smaller than the cargo bay and looks to be no larger than one of the quarters. We see Zorin is sitting on a box behind makeshift bars, welded to keep Zorin locked into a corner. We also see that Isaac has entered the room.

Isaac looks at Zorin's predicament and smiles.

ISAAC

They did a good job with that cell.  
The Confederates are very good at  
taming even the most vicious of beasts.

Zorin stands as intimidatingly as he can in his situation.

ZORIN

You son of a bitch. You're going to  
get us all killed.

ISAAC

Typical Zorin. Don't get your way,  
blame it on someone else and call  
them names. Ridiculous.

(almost sympathetically)  
Look at you. You're behind steel  
bars like a caged animal. You're in  
no position to tell me that I'm  
doing something wrong.

Zorin doesn't take this. He turns his back and tries to subdue his rage.

ZORIN

(through anger)  
Why? Why are you doing all this?

ISAAC

I'm taking the initiative. Finally  
taking charge and ousting the  
leader whose been leading us  
towards an inevitable death.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You've been doing it constantly over the past year and I can't sit back and let you kill us all.

ZORIN

I'm not your enemy. Those people who are helping you are the enemy.

ISAAC

We could squabble like this all day Zorin. Pointing fingers and shouting until we're blue in the balls, but we have some minor business to attend to.

Zorin sits and seethes.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I need those command passcodes you put into the computer so we can get manual control over this ship.

ZORIN

Ava handles all of that.

ISAAC

I know that. But I'm not reactivating that thing. I'm deleting her from the computer and having Harquin install a new operating system. But before we can do that, we need...

Zorin stands.

ZORIN

"Harquin"? You're old general?

ISAAC

Yes. That Harquin. I'm not going to go through his story right now.

ZORIN

So that's why you're trusting them.

ISAAC

I'm still not trusting them. I'm being extremely cautious not to get too close. When Avalon is up and running again, we're going to disable their ship and take off. I don't want them making up new parts of the agreement.

A silence.

ZORIN  
(calmer, giving in)  
They're in my quarters. In the  
computer.

ISAAC  
Fine.

ZORIN  
What are you going to do with me?  
Kill me? Sell me as cheap labor?

Isaac calms as well.

ISAAC  
I don't want to see you dead, nor  
anyone's slave. Despite what I'm  
doing to you now, I still respect  
you getting us this far. But even  
the mightiest of kings grow old.  
It's time you moved on.

(pause)  
I'm going to leave you on the  
nearest civilized planet. I'll  
leave you with some cash and food.  
However, you can't call this place  
home ever again.

Isaac begins to leave, but pauses when Zorin speaks...

ZORIN  
Who else are you going to kill in  
this transition, besides Ava? You  
have no great love for Shera and  
Azal, neither for several more  
crewmen who I allowed to serve on  
my ship because they needed a home.  
You'll split this crew up if you do  
this. There will be those who will  
die before seeing you in command.

ISAAC  
I'll cross that bridge when I come  
to it.  
(he looks back)  
And I will cross it.

He leaves.

We slowly zoom in on Zorin's dark eyes, until we zoom into the blackest of it and...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - BRIDGE

Back on the bridge, we see Roan sitting next to a female officer named LUNE. She's working diligently on her station.

LUNE

When the hell's Cap going to ransack that ship we've got under us? I'm sick of waiting.

ROAN

By the looks of it Lune, we're never going to. He wants them to go free.

She's almost disbelieving.

LUNE

Bullshit.

He nods.

ROAN

Probably. He's made up some story about how the first captain of this ship was shitting on all us and he saved us from it. He's got something up his sleeve, even if we don't know about it. I think he's waiting until the time is right, but I won't rule out the possibility that he might actually feel something for this crew. He might let them go.

LUNE

If he does something that stupid, we better tell the higher ups about it. They put him in command here, they can take it away.

ROAN

This isn't a star fleet Lune. They don't care what he does. If he did screw up, they'd know we'd take care of it. And we will if he does screw up.

HARQUIN(O.S.)  
Screw what up Roan?

They turn to see their captain standing behind them.

ROAN  
(covering up)  
Those damn cooks on g-deck. They  
aren't keeping up with their schedules.

HARQUIN  
Right. What did you want to talk  
with me about?

Roan points to the console Lune is at.

ROAN  
Take a look at this. You may not  
like it.

The screen shows a real-time cutaway of Avalon. We can see crewmembers walking, some working, but we focus in on one person in their quarters. It's Adele.

ROAN(CONT'D)  
We saw that she acted differently  
from everyone else. Dresses weird  
too. Didn't think much of it until  
we saw this.

We focus in even more to see the picture Adele was cradling earlier. Rol'Gin, Sovari, and herself in a peaceful pose.

ROAN(CONT'D)  
Had a goddamn Red in their ship and  
didn't tell you. Now why'd they  
want to do that?

Harquin looks angry at this revelation. He pats Roan on the shoulder.

ROAN(CONT'D)  
What do we do?

HARQUIN  
The same thing we always do when a  
Red is near.

He leaves it at that and briskly strides away.

CUT TO:

## INT. AVALON - CARGO BAY

A congregation is gathered in the cargo bay. Every crewmember is present and mingling among themselves with no indication as to why they are there. At least until Isaac walks in, flanked again by Confederate soldiers.

The bay goes dead silent and Isaac stops in his tracks for a moment. He then goes and hops on top of Hatch's shuttle, so he's able to see everyone below him. The gathering is still silent.

ISAAC

(with force)

I know you all know the change on this ship. The transition. I know you all have reservations about this and some of you would rather die than see Zorin left behind. I know because two years ago I would've thought the exact same thing. Two years ago, I would've taken a bullet for that man, and I have on many occasions. And then some. Zorin was a great man. He held us together. But a year ago, he betrayed everything he built in a single decision. He let this ship get caught up in the Cult's plans. We could've run, even if it hurt us, we could've ran and stayed our course. Because of this, the Reds want us dead, want Adele, want our computer, want several of you dead, and countless others. We've had to fight off people on board who sought to maraud us from within, sleep with both eyes open to keep from getting ransacked, let people we love get raped, let him make a deal with the Cult, and nearly killed everyone on board in our latest game of prey and predator. I couldn't have let him lead us down the last bend of this road to annihilation. I had to take command, for all our sake.

VOICE(O.S.)

Go fuck yourself Isaac!

VOICE 2(O.S.)

He gave us a better life!

VOICE 3(O.S.)

Isaac's right!

The crowd of 25 to 30 people erupts in an uproar. We cut to see Siren is indifferent to this mess, Ridek is shouting, Hatch is almost scared, and Shera giving Azel a concerned look. Shera tells Azel something and they exit the cargo bay.

ISAAC

(commanding)

QUIET!!

The crowd reluctantly complies.

ISAAC(CONT'D)

I'm not asking you to accept this change overnight, but you will have to deal with it. Zorin's reign is OVER!

Suddenly, a tall Tikaran man jumps up to the top of Hatch's shuttle and confronts Isaac.

TIKARAN

(shouting, pointing)

This man will lead us to death!  
He's arrogant and will destroy our freedom!

(pointing to the Confederates)

That's what we'll become if we let him do this!

Half of the crowd raises their fists in agreement, the other half spites the man.

TIKARAN(CONT'D)

Isaac is a medic and nothing more!  
His world was destroyed because of betrayal and he's blind enough to make the same move on us! Don't let this traitor take his anger out on us by doing what happened to him and shoving that in our faces like it's our fault! Traitor!

The uproar continues as the Tikaran raises hell.

Isaac goes to the Tikaran and whispers something in his ear. Isaac whispers for a fairly long time until...

The Tikaran falls dead off the shuttle. We see Isaac has stabbed a knife into his side. The crowd goes even crazier at this, some start throwing debris, other cheer him.

Isaac ignores it all and strolls out of the bay, the Confederates protecting him.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - AZEL'S QUARTERS

Azel and Shera are in their quarters, Azel clearly in distress at the preceding event. He sits on his cot and buries his face in his hands.

AZEL

I didn't actually think it would come to this. Us having to actually leave.

Shera nods. She sits next to her kin and put her arm around him.

SHERA

I'm sorry it has to be this way. I admit, I got my hopes up when we found this ship. I thought it would be good for us from now on.

(a beat, a mild laugh)

Pretty naive, huh?

AZEL

(still somber)

Guess so. I was starting to feel at home. No such place anymore?

SHERA

Doesn't look like it. Not yet, at least.

Azel thinks on this for a silent moment.

AZEL

If we do this, I don't want to go alone. This may not be our home and may not be our family, but we do have friends who are just as in trouble by this change as us.

SHERA

Ridek? Gor'Tien?

AZEL

However many we can fit in the shuttle.

Shera becomes disenchanted.

SHERA

There's only one person who we need  
to take who's life is most in danger.

Azel realizes.

AZEL

Zorin.

She nods. They embrace for another moment.

AZEL(CONT'D)

I'm still sick of running. Even  
after a year's break.

SHERA

It will end one say. You'll see. It  
may not be here, but somewhere it  
will be.

She gets up and stands in front of the door.

SHERA(CONT'D)

When do you want to go?

AZEL

Tonight. Five hours. That will give  
me enough time to figure out how to  
get Zorin free and to -- say goodbye.

She accepts and departs.

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Shera walks out of the room and into...

Isaac! She plows right into him and bounces off like rubber  
on steel. She looks up to his hardened face. She clearly  
gulps in anxiety at his presence as he stare her down. She  
begins to feel something under her shirt...

ISAAC

Going somewhere?

At this, she becomes even more embarrassed. A look of guilt.  
She replies, but we don't hear...

We focus on the two Confederates with Isaac. Our ears fill  
with the sound of their headset radios that only they can hear.

HARQUIN(V.O.)

Isaac's been dishonest with us.  
He's harboring enemies when he told  
us he'd rid the ship of them. Take  
him out and bring him to me.

We zoom back out as the two Confederates nod to each other.

Shera sees the two nodding.

VOICE

Save your life. Save his!

Shera doesn't hesitate. She knees Isaac straight in the groin!

This causes Isaac to keel over but also causes the Confederate to miss his swipe to Isaac's back. Shera pulls out a knife from under her shirt and impales both unsuspecting Confederates. There is little else as the two simply fall to the ground with Isaac, who clutches his manhood in clear and abundant pain.

ISAAC

What the HELL?!

She doesn't know how to respond -- and she doesn't. She runs off down the corridor.

Isaac is confused, but he clearly sees his life has been saved.

Suddenly, Azel opens his door to see the commotion. He sees the simple image of two dead Confederates and Isaac cradling his privates, nearly in tears, in front of the two. At this, Azel slowly slinks back into his quarters.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Before us is a large moon. A star is seen in the background and various spatial objects are also seen, but our focus remains of the moon itself. We glide downward to the surface of the cold, gray rock to see a small installation. The base is quote obviously Cult.

INT. CULT INSTALLATION - TEMPLE HALL

Within the base, we are greeted by a large temple atrium. It's almost a perfect, monotonous replica of every other atrium we've seen from them. Large pillars, fire the illumination in the dark, and the very front of the atrium houses a replica of the Avatar of Light.

In front of the Avatar is a woman in metallic robes. The woman seen as Sovari's newest general: BRIE. She's meditating. We slowly pan around to see someone is with her, a messenger by the name of TOLLARIS.

BRIE

I'm finished. What is it you want Tollaris?

TOLLARIS

A matter of urgency. Our scout ship, GT-M106 has ceased communications. An hour ago, we got it's psionic distress beacon. They were destroyed.

Brie turns to the messenger.

BRIE

Who'd have the audacity?

The messenger nearly smiles.

TOLLARIS

The ones we chased near Tyrian. The Avalon.

BRIE

They aren't capable of doing something like this.

TOLLARIS

No sir. They were with someone. It looks to be Confederates.

Brie looks agitated, yet hopeful.

BRIE

The Cult and the Confederates have maintained a cease hostility agreement for a decade, and now they're breaking the agreement.

He acknowledges.

TOLLARIS

It would seem so.

BRIE

Prepare the ship. We're going after them.

He nods and complies.

Brie is left alone for now. She looks up at the Avatar and frowns.

BRIE

Omega. You're alive and in  
Confederate hands. A weapon.

(pause)

I can't allow it.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. AVALON - CARGO HOLD

Zorin is still trapped like a zoo animal behind the claustrophobic bars. He sits alone, not moving while planted on a crate.

Outside the hold, we hear a brief THUD. The door opens and we see Ridek and Shera dragging an unconscious Confederate in. Zorin stands and looks out.

ZORIN

What are you two up to?

RIDEK

What's it look like? Setting you free!

ZORIN

I appreciate the thought, but how are you going to get me out of these bars? How are you going to keep this from Isaac knowing that he have a Confederate warship at his aid?

Shera and Ridek shove the Confederate behind some crates and go to Zorin.

SHERA

We wouldn't have done this without some degree of planning.

Shera checks out the bars caging Zorin.

SHERA(CONT'D)

Just as I thought. We're gonna have to cut them.

Ridek nods and goes back out into the corridor. He returns moments later with a hefty laser drill, a familiar laser drill at that. Ridek lines the drill up with the bars, but Zorin stops him.

ZORIN

Wait a second! Isn't that the drill that's prone to explosions?

Shera and Ridek share a glance.

RIDEK  
 Oddly enough, it's the only one  
 still working.

Zorin shrugs and allows them to continue.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CONFERENCE ROOM

Siren sits alone in the Avalon's barren conference room. She sits at the far end of the table, cradling her bulging stomach. She looks down to her unborn child.

SIREN  
 Me too.

Just then, the door opens and Isaac enters. He's limping.

ISAAC  
 Didn't think you'd get here so fast.

SIREN  
 If you must know, I was already here. I come here every once and a while to enjoy the silence and look at the stars.

Isaac scoffs.

ISAAC  
 (bitter)  
 You see the stars everyday.

SIREN  
 I look at them, yes, but this is the only time I get to think for myself. It's peaceful.

Isaac leans into the chair at the other end of the table.

ISAAC  
 I'm sure it is. Did Harquin send anyone over to look at you?

She's confused.

SIREN  
 No.

ISAAC  
 (angered)  
 Didn't think so. Stupid to think he'd help you.

SIREN  
That's not the only stupid thing  
you've done.

He realizes her quarry,

ISAAC  
You don't approve of my move to  
take this ship?

SIREN  
(defensive)  
Did you expect anything else?  
Zorin's my best friend and you're  
leaving him behind? Betraying his  
trust?

The new captain shakes his head in disbelief.

ISAAC  
Did you hear nothing of what I said  
in the cargo bay? He's the traitor.

SIREN  
I heard you. I don't buy it. If you  
don't like the way Zorin runs this  
ship, then you leave! Not him.

Isaac stands.

ISAAC  
(shouting)  
THIS IS MY HOME! THIS IS MY FAMILY!

Siren takes his shouts in stride but does not respond. Isaac  
cools off as quickly as he heated up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)  
(softer, genuine)  
Do you not see that I'm trying to  
protect you? You and your child? I  
care for you as much as Zorin does.  
For everyone who belongs here. Can  
you really not see that?

Siren looks out to the stars, not replying.

A moment of awkward silence.

SIREN  
What about those who don't belong here?

Isaac nods.

ISAAC  
I'm sending them away.

SIREN  
Where?

He looks out to the stars as well.

ISAAC  
I don't care where. The Xindi,  
Tikarans, Elosians. The two humans  
who were Duranon sympathizers. I'm  
giving anyone who doesn't agree  
with my command over to the  
Confederates.

She stands up and eyes Isaac something fierce.

SIREN  
I don't believe even you are that  
monstrous.

ISAAC  
Is it monstrous to keep this family  
together and kick the outsiders out?

She laughs in complete exhaustion from this conversation.

SIREN  
You've truly lost it.

ISAAC  
I've asked you here to make a  
choice. THE choice.

She stills stares him down.

ISAAC(CONT'D)  
Either you accept this change, or  
you go with Zorin to where ever he  
goes.

SIREN  
I won't choose sides. This is going  
to boil out of control soon if you  
insist on this totalitarianism. I  
won't put myself in a position to  
fight with or against you when the  
people on this ship try to regain  
control.

ISAAC

They're not going to regain control Siren. I'm sending them away in as soon as they get Avalon's engines powered up. Should be anytime now.

(pause)

I really hate having to put you through this situation. You have to pick your side. Whatever you choose, it will be peaceful. You can go with Zorin to whatever planet we leave him on or you can stick with us. Decide.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - GALLEY

SIREN

Zorin. I can't leave his side after all we've been through.

In the rather cramped galley, Siren has gathered a group of 15 people, all standing around her. She's clearly on a soap box at this point and the others, which include Ridek, Gor'Tien, Tal Jurek, Azel, Shera, and Hatch, are gathered around her.

RIDEK

She's right. We can't just lay down and accept this. The crew is split in half, those who support Isaac and those who support Zorin. We cannot let this continue to the point of bloodshed.

GOR'TIEN

But Isaac's supporters are adamant about this change. I was talking with Carlise just half an hour ago and she was brutal in the way she talked about Zorin. They'll see this transition through to the bitter end.

TAL

And bitter it'll be if we let this pass. Siren, tell them what you told me.

She's uncomfortable having to relay this information.

SIREN

When you complete repairing Avalon,  
most of you are going to get dumped  
with the Confederates.

The people react in horror, talking among themselves in  
concerned voices.

RIDEK

They'll sell us as food! Slavery,  
whatever will bring in a price.  
Avalon is almost up and running and  
our demise is just as close. The  
time to act is now!

SIREN

But are we going to solve this  
through bloodshed? It seems the  
crew can only avoid a confrontation  
is either Zorin leaves, or Isaac  
leaves.

ZORIN(O.S.)

It's me.

We pan around to see Zorin exiting the pantry of the galley,  
obviously his hiding spot.

ZORIN(CONT'D)

I'm leaving this ship. Azel and  
Shera are leaving with me within  
the next half hour.

RIDEK

(protesting)

Zorin no. This is your ship and  
always has been. We can't let you  
leave in good conscious.

GOR'TIEN

(same)

And what about us? We're just going  
to let ourselves get sold off like  
merchandise? It's suicide.

HATCH

(shouting)

There's no other choice!

From behind the group of 15 people, the last person expected  
to speak up speaks up. Thomas Hatch. When he speaks, the  
others listen.

HATCH(CONT'D)

Look, I'm not the brightest bulb in the tool shed, but even I can see that either Zorin or Isaac leaving isn't going to just solve this away. We, the crew, have already burned our wooden roads or however that saying goes. We've already chosen sides and I'm sorry to say that we have to fight them or else they'll lay our heads on chopping blocks!

At this, the crowd starts to look each other.

RIDEK

Did Hatch just say that?

AZEL

(stunned)

My god, it actually made sense.

Hatch shrugs off the sarcasm.

HATCH

People change.

The others begin to murmur. An air of hope begins to arise.

TAL

I'm with the time traveler. This is our home as much as Isaac's supporters, whether or not we arrived here later than them.

RIDEK

The first thing we need to do is get Avalon back up. Then, we can barricade ourselves in important parts of Avalon to keep control of her. Then, we disable that Confederate ship and get the hell out of here.

Zorin steps forward.

ZORIN

If we do this, I...

His voice dissipates. He tries to find his words.

ZORIN(CONT'D)

I'm proud of every one of you for doing this. Not just supporting me, but each other. This is the kind of family I wanted to create, the kind of bond one would search for years in this universe and not find. Even if our counterparts have different views, we can still come out of this a better whole.

(a beat)

Thanks you all.

The small crowd acknowledges Zorin.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - HARQUIN'S QUARTERS

Harquin sits in a chair, sipping alcohol. He's intent on someone in front of him.

HARQUIN

You lied to me.

We see Isaac is with Harquin now.

ISAAC

I lied to you? You had your goons try to kill me!

HARQUIN

They were just going to knock you out. I needed to talk with you. Why the hell is there a Cultist onboard your ship?

ISAAC

She's not a Cultist. She's just a runaway.

HARQUIN

Then why were you hiding her?

ISAAC

Why do you think? I knew you were on a vendetta against Reds and I can't let her fall victim to that.

HARQUIN

Why?

ISAAC

She...

He can't finish the sentence.

HARQUIN

What Isaac? She what? What has she done for you other than contribute to Jushai's downfall?

ISAAC

She saved my life!

He nods.

HARQUIN

Your life is more important than the honor of your entire race? Selfish.

ISAAC

(angered)

Look who's fucking talking!

Harquin smiles at Isaac's retort.

HARQUIN

(calm, through his smile)

We want her. Now.

ISAAC

Don't put me in this situation. I'm grateful for you giving us this second chance, but don't shit on the trust we've regained.

HARQUIN

You've already done that. If you don't give her to us willingly, we'll just transport her to our ship. Along with -- the Omega.

Isaac seems to get Harquin's secrets.

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

We're not stupid. We knew the Confederate ship you encountered three weeks ago was sent to get Siren and Adele Tiernan. We knew we'd probably have to finish that assignment. We saw you talking with Siren earlier, when you asked her to take sides. But it's you who has to make the decision: the two women or your whole family.

(MORE)

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

If you don't give them to us --  
we'll kill every single one of you  
and take them forcibly. Sell the  
Avalon as spare parts.

Isaac's face is red. He can barely hold back his rage, but he doesn't respond to Harquin at all.

HARQUIN(CONT'D)

So be it.  
(touching a comm button)  
Roan, go ahead with the  
extermination plan.

ISAAC

NO! Wait. I'll...

Isaac's voice cracks at his plea.

ISAAC

Goddammit. I'll do it. You can have  
them.

Harquin smiles and stands up. He sides next to Sarola and pats him on the back.

HARQUIN

Thank you. That's a brave decision  
you've made. You've ensured the  
health and well being of...

Before he can finish, Isaac slams a punch into Harquin's jaw and he runs off. Harquin nearly collapses from the sudden blow, but stays on his feet. He doesn't pursue Isaac.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - ENGINEERING

Azel is working on a console furiously, as are a ton of others. Zorin supporters, all readying their possible battle against Confederates and Avalon crewmen alike. Tal is seen handing out hand weapons to people, but the weapons seem barely capable of killing a mouse.

INT. AVALON - AVA'S CORE

In Ava's core, Hatch and Gor'Tien are obviously trying to restart Ava. Several moments go by before we hear a very welcoming voice...

AVA

Miss me?

Hatch and Gor'Tien share a look of success.

HATCH

Ava, we need you to help us.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

On the bridge, Shera is at her normal console. On the screen, we can see she's isolating the safe spots on Avalon to keep it under their control. She then gets to her feet and goes to the left side of the bridge, to the panel Hatch used to activate the shields. She eyes it for a moment before we...

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

We're back in a corridor. Isaac is being approached by a few men. Harquin, Roan, and two security officers. They stand face to face.

HARQUIN

Where is she?

Isaac motions down the hall.

ISAAC

This way.

He starts to walk, the others follow behind, the security guards aiming their weapons at Isaac's back.

HARQUIN

I want you to know that this is for the best. For once, we're serving justice.

ISAAC

I don't want to hear it.

The small team arrive at Adele's quarters. Isaac stands solemnly at the door before he makes his move.

ISAAC(CONT'D)

I'm sorry I have to do this.

HARQUIN

Don't be sorry for her. She's getting what she deserves.

ISAAC

Not sorry for her...

Isaac pushes the button which opens the door. He closes his eyes and looks away.

ISAAC(CONT'D)

Sorry for you.

A grenade-like device is tossed into the air from within Adele's quarters. It explodes in a flash of light and shocks the others to their knees!

From surrounding sides of the corridor, Isaac's supporters rush in and aim their weapons at the stunned Confederates, disarming them.

Adele walks out from her quarters. Carlise, one of Isaac's supporters, approaches her.

CARLISE

Damn Adele. Didn't think you believed in violence.

ADELE

I don't particularly see blinding men sent to kill me as violent. More along the lines of "the smart thing to do".

Isaac, as flurry of rage, grabs Harquin by the shirt.

ISAAC

(fiery)

I'm not giving anyone over to you. You saved us and we're grateful, but I'll be damned if I have to repay you with the blood of a kind woman!

HARQUIN

You're making a huge mistake Sarola. Don't tread on the Confederates, or we'll see you suffer a fate worse than what we went through in New Terria.

ISAAC

I don't doubt it. But you'll have to catch us first, and we've learned to rely on each other to stay away from your kind. From now on, you'll never see us again.

Suddenly, the corridor goes very dark. Emergency lights shine a dull blue in the ship as the others look around in confusion. Harquin begins to laugh.

HARQUIN

Relying on each other? What the hell did that ever get anyone? The same thing you're getting now: betrayal.

A loud beep is heard of the comm.

AVA

Attention Isaac and his followers. If I were you, I'd send those Confederates back to where they came from and lay down arms. Zorin is back in command.

Isaac throws Harquin to the ground.

ISAAC

NO!!

Harquin nods to Roan, who nods likewise. Roan touches a small device on his jacket, then all the Confederates are taken into nothingness. A transporter.

CARLISE

Isaac! What now?

Isaac grabs his weapon.

ISAAC

We fight! I'm not going to lose this war!

Isaac's dedicated following marches in tow with him.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFEDERATE SHIP - BRIDGE

Back on their bridge, Harquin and Roan are rushing to their posts.

HARQUIN

Get a transporter lock on the two women! And Isaac! I'm not done with him.

ROAN

What about the Avalon?

HARQUIN

Disable it. Leave it for when the Cult get here.

A loud klaxon begins to roar. Lune, the bridge officer, perks up.

LUNE  
The Cult? Yeah, they're already here. They just dropped out of warp!

Harquin launches himself next to her.

HARQUIN  
Get them from Avalon!

LUNE  
Sir, it'll take at least a minute to find their life signs. We have 30 seconds until the Cult are on top of us!

HARQUIN  
What?!

LUNE  
We have to retreat!

HARQUIN  
NO! Not now!

Roan comes to the same conclusion.

ROAN  
We have to! We can try again later!

The captain punches a console, effectively shattering it.

HARQUIN  
Send out the swarmers! Lay in a course out of here!

A mass of agitation, Harquin stomps to his center chair and sits. We close in on him.

HARQUIN(CONT'D)  
You're not getting away this easily traitor.

EXT. SPACE

Outside the Confederate ship, like we've seen previously, the cargo bay door opens and releases several large canisters. They head toward the Avalon!

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

On the bridge, Shera sees the incoming swarmers. She looks up.

SHERA

Ava! They're doing it. Time to work your magic.

AVA

Aye aye, Captain Shera.

Suddenly, the shield controls light up.

AVA(CONT'D)

If that bitch Siepra helped me with one thing, it's this.

EXT. SPACE

The Avalon's shield stutter... but they soon come to full life!

Going to a microscopic level again, to see the tiny robots are simply impacting against Avalon's shields and vaporizing. They continue to do this until they are all destroyed and rendered harmless.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

The corridor outside of engineering is packed with Isaac's followers. They are attempting to gain entrance but it's clear it's failing.

Isaac goes to Carlise.

ISAAC

Carlise! Take five people to the bridge and try to retake it!

She nods.

CARLISE

What if we run into crewmates?

At this, Isaac seems to lose his previous confidence.

ISAAC

Just... take them out. They're not family.

Carlise looks at him, as if fighting to accept this as truth. She reluctantly nods and gathers up five men.

ISAAC

I'm going to see if I can reroute power to open this door!

At this, Isaac runs down the less crowded end of the corridor. He arrives at a service panel near the door to the cargo bay... but the door quickly slides open and Isaac is pulled inside!

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

We cut briefly back to the bridge as Shera coordinates the hectic situation from a safe place. Ridek is with her, so is Zorin.

RIDEK

Here's a sight I wish I'd never see again.

SHERA

What?

Ridek activates the tiny viewscreen. A Cult Cruiser!

ZORIN

Damn it to hell. This situation is getting much more desperate. Ava! How long until engines are back online?

AVA

Hot damn, we're cutting it close Zorin! They'll be on us in 20 seconds and the engines will be on in a minute.

ZORIN

Those 40 seconds might as well be an eternity. We can't face another Cult cruise not now. They know we destroyed their scout ship, so they're out for blood.

(a beat)

Where are the Confederates?

AVA

They're prepping for their warp jump. They'll be gone in 30 seconds!

Zorin sits back in his chair.

ZORIN

They've succeeded in killing us. As I knew they would.

Off this dark scene, we...

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CARGO BAY

Isaac is now in the much quieter cargo bay, but in a much more dire situation. Siren has Isaac at gunpoint!

ISAAC

I thought you said you weren't going to choose sides.

SIREN

(ravenous)

I said I won't get involved in the fight to regain control over this ship. And I'm not. What I'm doing is revenge.

ISAAC

What? Revenge?

SIREN

(calmer)

I thought I could trust you. I thought you were my friend. I thought you'd be loyal. I was wrong.

ISAAC

Is it wrong to want to save...

SIREN

Stop it! I'm sick of your spin.

She unleashes her tentacles and they wrap around his neck! But she is not killing him, only making him more compliant.

SIREN(CONT'D)

Walk!

Siren starts to lead Isaac across the empty cargo bay. Isaac cannot see he's being lead towards the open airlock!

ISAAC

Siren? What are you doing?

Siren releases him and shoves him into the airlock. She pushes the console next to it and the door shuts...

ISAAC

(desperate)

SIREN! DON'T DO THIS! PLEASE!

SIREN

You've caused more damage on this ship than can be solved with words. My child's life is in danger because of the people you've rallied to believe that I'm part of the problem. This can only end one way: with Zorin's death or yours.

(a beat)

If this is choosing sides, so be it.

Isaac's face is now streaming tears.

ISAAC

(sobbing)

Don't. Please.

She shakes her head.

She smacks the airlock button.

In the blink of an eye, the outside airlock door slides open and Isaac is mercilessly pulled into space. He slowly drifts into the sea of nothingness, helpless and alone.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

TO BE CONTINUED