

Freefall



(Background)

Only a single year after humanity first contact with the scourge. Titan core research teams have been hard at work trying to come up with a way to stop the scourge. So once again humanity must rise to the challenge as once more they face the destruction of their species.

(Prelude)

(Andromeda
Rock military installation
Titan Core operations and debriefing room)

Titan Core has many research facility located throughout the universe there was one that was different as it was studying live Scourge creatures from the battle with them one year before. Gemini had come down to the debriefing that was being held at Rock military installation. To get briefed by the science teams on what they had found out about the Scourge. “Ah Gemini your here” said sapphire “yeah only just arrived” said Gemini. Checking her Gravity assist belt that she has been using to help her walk around ever since here interaction with the Scourge a year before.

“Well it’s good to see you : but we need to do this briefing soon so I can get back my patrol.”
“Well we are all here” said Sapphire “so I shall begin: my name is Sapphire Ethereal and I am here as a representative from the head of Titan Core. : we have been studying the scourge for the past year and you will be glad to know that your funding was not misplaced” “good” said Sam “took you long enough”

“so anyway” said Sapphire “what we have found out is most interesting :first some good news the scourge lifeforms is part biological part crystalline and not DNA based which means that is unable to infect humanity in any serious way. :second the Scourge does not have a hive mind like the Exodus instead it uses Swarm intelligence. In other words all scourge lifeforms have their personality thoughts feelings and so on. Then as well as this they use a quantum entanglement system within their brains to allow them to share tactical information between each other. And that’s the bad news we can’t disrupt this link as there isn’t a way to jam quantum entanglement communication systems. Fortunately all of this data needs to be processed before it can be used. : to do this the Scourge have Hive Worlds which provide the processing power for the system to work. Then there are Shard Worlds there is one of these in each universe and these act as hubs routing information to other scourge Shard Worlds in other universes. In short if we were able to find a Hive World we would be able to use specialised equipment to find the location of the Shard World for that universe. And by destroying that believe we could deal a crippling blow to the scourge in that universe. Also if all of the Hive Worlds are destroyed then the scourge will have to replicate through crystalline division. Which would take quite some time.”

“As a final note” said sapphire brushing out a hair that had fallen into her eye “if all Hive and Shard worlds in a universe are destroyed then the scourge will lose control of that universe for a long time as they rely on their Shard worlds to open wormholes between universes to move there Hive worlds between them. Once there is critical mass of hive Worlds in a universe then they will construct a Shard world.”

“so” said Sam “you reckon there’s a Hive World nearby” “yes” said sapphire “all these scourge we have been seeing lately must be coming from somewhere.” “But” said jack what about that dreadnought a few years back.” “What do you mean” asked sapphire. “Well when that was killed the scourge seemed to lose their ability to communicate effectively.” “Ah yes” said sapphire “that was when there technology was more biological. However it they seem to be evolving. Moving there communications to a safer location.”

“right” said Sapphire “I have to get back to my dreadnought” “ok” said Sam “what should I do for a ship” “oh yeah” said Sapphire “that : right if you go to the Titan Core Shipyards (which now made up 90% of the triangulum galaxy. With the last 10% being made up with Titan Cores research facility’s.) there you will find the ship you will be stationed on. “ok I shall head there immediately.” said Sam “ as a side note what is Gemini going to be flying.” “oh” said sapphire “ I arranged for her to be on the same ship as you will be on : oh and I suggest you go get on that ship before it leaves on its mission.” “right will do” said Sam “Jack , Gemini lets go.” and with that Sam walked out of the operations room closely followed by jack and Gemini. As they were walking down the corridor towards the hanger bay. Sam said “well I think that went about as well as it was going to under the circumstances.” “yeah” said Jack “well it will be nice to have a ship again that year without one was a right pain” “agreed” said Gemini.

“i mean I don’t care if its less efficient than vaporisation it has a better view” “its also better from a tactical point of view.” said Sam “not just for having a good view.” “Sam” said Gemini “can I put my gravity assist belt on charge when we get on the ship we have been assigned.” “yeah” said Sam “sure.” a few minutes later Sam , Jack and Gemini got to the shuttle. Sam then proceeded to climb up the short ladder into the cockpits seat and put one hand on the throttle and the other on the

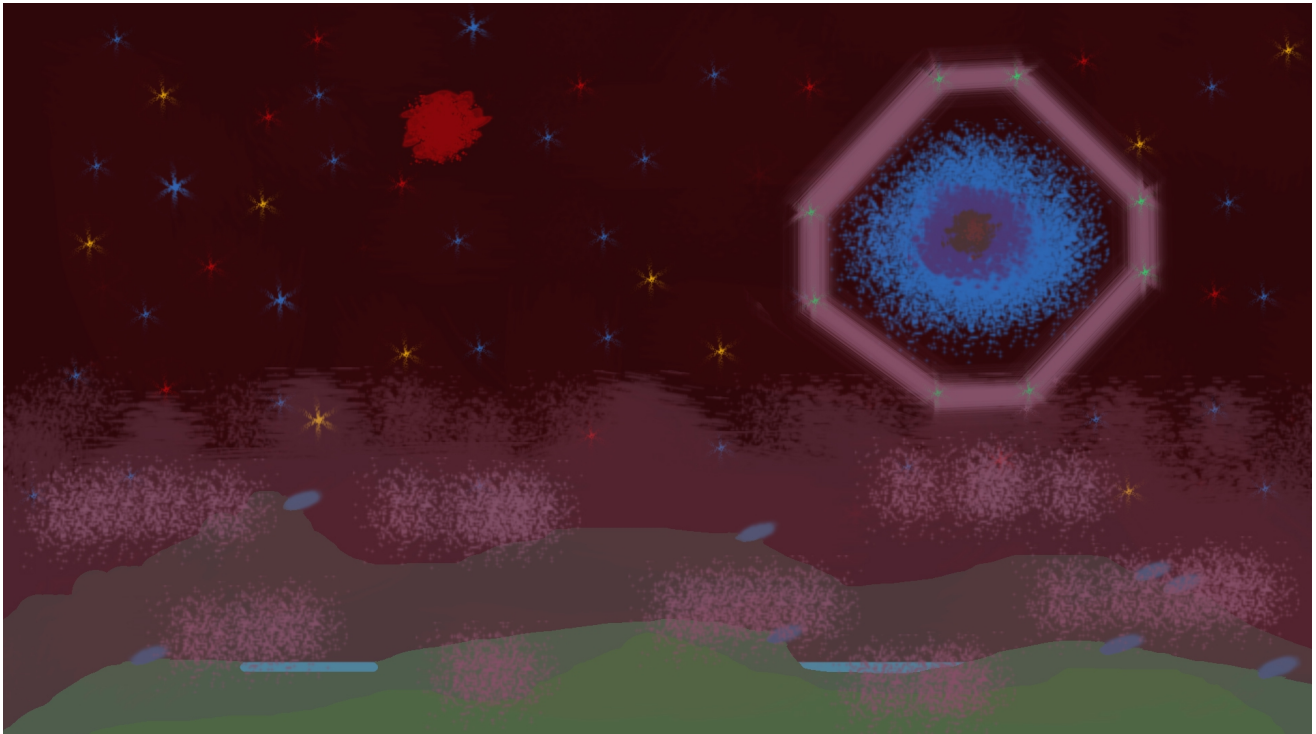
ships joystick. "you two ready" asked Sam "yeah" said Gemini and Jack at the same time. "ok in that case" said Sam pushing the communication console towards her. And after inputting a few symbols. The comms sprung into life. Seeing this Sam said "shuttle-craft 22-77-112-Echo-7822 requesting launch clearance :destination triangulum." a few seconds later the facility's orbital control room opened up comms and said. "copy clearance is granted :however be advised that there is a quantum entanglement tunnel that is about to be created by the 22th fleet by 9 Gateships and there 9 supporting Core Destroyers." "roger that" said Sam "proceeding to high orbit" and with that Sam pushed forward on the throttle and the shuttle glided out of hanger. And after Sam pulled back on the joystick the shuttles front pointed up and after Sam pushed the throttle to 100% the ship accelerated and flew into space. The ship got shaken as it flew up through the dense atmosphere but this stopped as they cleared the atmosphere and the shuttle began its burn to enter orbit. When the engine turned off again the ship was in a high orbit which intersected with the location of the 22th fleet.

(triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
lws system
Trei 111
Interstellar command)

meanwhile deep inside Triangulum the quantum entanglement tunnel was being arranged. This was not an easy feat as if the tunnel jumped to another group of gateships then the outcome could be disastrous. this was made even more challenging by the fact that the Triangulum galaxy was off limits to anyone who wasn't a member of titan core. "Nova" said admiral vine "22th fleet requests permission to open quantum entanglement tunnel between Rock military installation and the triangulum shipyards." "copy" said Nova "permission is granted" "copy" said admiral Vine. "22th fleet green light to tunnel" but more impressive than the tunnel was the fact that the Titan Core headquarters Garron 5 as well as the whole of the Darklight dust cloud had been relocated to Triangulum from it previous position in Veranon. This was achieved using quantum entanglement vaporisation. In which a particle is split so that half of it resides in each location. this means that the particle is in two locations at once. then then both are merged at the destination. This was seen as very impressive and would have been on the news channels for weeks if the general population found out about it. But due to the Veranon galaxy having been a restricted region of space for years no one had noticed that the dust cloud had been moved.

(Andromeda
Rock military installation

High orbit)



in high orbit above Rock military installation Sam was making final changes to her shuttles orbit. After a few seconds of flicking switches and adjusting the throttle Sam's shuttle finally got into the high orbit that Sam was looking for. A few moments passed then Sam said "there look" as she pointed out the cockpits window towards the 9 gateships that were linking up ahead of them. "next will be the power" said Jack as the gateships began to receive energy from nearby core destroyers by way of nine bright beams of green light travelling from the core destroyers to the gateships. Where the gateships were linking up you could see red docking lights. Which after the ships had docked these lights turned green and a huge amount of the tunnelling liquid Eeriseis-897 began to flow at high speed around the inner ring of the newly formed up gate ships. This fluid got faster and faster. Then suddenly there was a huge flash of Yellow light then a huge flash of red light then out of a hole in the fabric of spacetime the quantum entanglement tunnel began to open. And within a second it had expanded all the way to the start of the inner ring of the linked up gateships. And through it you could see the shipyards of triangulum. As well as an uncountable number of Titan Core ships flying around the shipyards.

Then suddenly 22th fleet brought it's engines online and started to move straight towards the quantum entanglement tunnel that had been created by the gateships. Seeing this Sam pushed the throttle forward and her shuttle began to move towards the quantum entanglement tunnel at a high speed. The 22th fleet was ahead of them and entered the tunnel first. With each ship emitting a pulse of grey light as it passed the mid point of the tunnel. 15 seconds later Sam's shuttle entered the quantum entanglement tunnel with a pulse of grey light and after flying for only 3 seconds through the tunnel they reached the far-side and with it the triangulum shipyards. As soon as Sam's shuttle had cleared the quantum entanglement tunnel the gateships terminated the connection and the quantum entanglement tunnel collapsed with a flash of green light. Then after the liquid Eeriseis-897 had been brought to a stop by huge bulkhead doors. The gateships

proceeded to separate into there 9 component ships. The lights on there docking ports turning red as they separated. And the 9 core destroyers brought there power beams offline. Then all the gateships began to fly away to where they would be making the next connection.

“now” said Gemini “that was cool” “yeah” said Jack “that did look very cool : but anyway where's our ship.” “Sapphire gave me the coordinates” said Sam “and I am on my way now” and with that Sam pushed the joystick to the right then pulled it back. And began to head towards one of the larger shipyards which was only a few million kilometres away.

(chapter 1)
(once again lets do it again)

(Triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
titan core shipyard
“Endless voyage”)

as they made there way through the swarm of ships in Triangulum they passed many starship ranging from 7 meters long to 9887747 meters long. Flying below above and to the side of the other ships. After a few minutes they landed on the hanger bay of one of the largest shipyards in Triangulum. After landing they were greeted by Admiral vine. “Eden you jack and Gemini are needed for a rescue mission” “but we don’t have a ship” said Sam “also I don’t want to take Gemini on the mission” “we need her too” said admiral vine “she can sense the scourge whenever they are in the nearby area.” “fine but she is in a squad with me and jack” said Sam and by the way this is the last request you get” “ok” said admiral vine “got it” “so what ship will we be using” said Sam. “ah” said admiral vine we got something good lined up follow me” and with that Sam ,jack and Gemini followed admiral vine through the narrow corridors that made up the middle of the shipyard. After a few minutes they stopped in fount of large window overlooking the cruiser “Endless voyage” “that’s the ship” said admiral vine “you will be one of the first strike teams deployed onto the disabled Aurora vessel “Deep Black”

“wait a second” said Jack “how was the ship disabled” “the scourge ambushed the ship” said admiral vine “you will find it in orbit around planet 35127 just beyond the barrier” “yeah I remember that world” said Sam “we crashed landed there many years ago” “good” said admiral vine “I will walk you to your ship” after another 3 minutes they had walked down the ramp and onto the airlock that lead onto the docking tube.

“right” said admiral vine “here is your ship : be advised there may still be scourge on the ship and we are unsure of the structural integrity of the ship and you will be without backup as what is jamming there communications may jam yours” “ok” said Sam “I got this” “then good hunting” said admiral vine “and fly safe” after that Sam jack and Gemini walked into the air lock. As it cycled Sam began a conversation” “I don’t like getting dumped with missions” said Sam “I mean who does vine think he is ordering around people from another organisation: I am not happy” “neither am I” said Jack “i don’t want Gemini on a mission” “its ok” said Gemini “I have always wanted to fight alongside you Sam : you were my hero even before you adopted me : please let me try” “I will think about it” Said Sam “no promises though” “thanks” said Gemini “I won’t let you down”

the airlock then proceeded to open onto the docking tube. And Sam Jack and Gemini walked down the docking tube and into the air lock at the other end. Inside the airlock there were two of the ship's troops guarding the door. Once they were inside one of the troops pressed a button to cycle the airlock before saluting to Sam and saying. "if you can report to the bridge once you are onboard the captain needs to speak with you" "solid copy" said Sam "I will head up to the bridge once I get onboard" "thanks" said the trooper. "right you are cleared onboard" said the trooper as the airlock finished cycling. "thanks" said Jack as he Sam and Gemini walked through the airlock door and onto the "Endless voyage".

(Triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
titan core shipyard
"Endless voyage")

"right" said Sam "I am going to the bridge and see what that's all about" "right" said Jack "I will look after Gemini" "ok then" said Sam handing Jack her Assault rifle which was covered with ornate engravings and the inscription "finite patience infinite firepower." "here take this and make sure you shoot first" "look" said Gemini "I can look after myself" "I know" said Sam "still Jack is one good shot" Sam began walking down the narrow corridors of the "Endless voyage" passing all sorts of gear as she went. On the left side of the corridor there was a window that looked out onto shipyards of Triangulum. In which hundreds of thousands of ships were slowly flying from place to place. After a few minutes Sam reached the gravimetric acceleration tube and stepped in. in less than a second two things happened. Firstly she began to float. And secondly she began to accelerate towards the bridge the internals of the ship flashing past her as she went.

Then as suddenly as it started it was over and she was thrown out of the tunnel and landed feet first in front of the bridge. And after regaining her balance she walked onto the bridge. The bridge was filled with hundreds of people. Most on the ship's consoles but there were still loads coming and going as well as a few standing in front of the holographic planning table in the middle of the room. after looking around the room for a few more seconds Sam located the captain's chair and seeing that it was occupied she went over. After reaching the captain's chair Sam realised that the captain was the AI from the November ; Eden. "you wanted to see me" said Sam. "positive" said Eden her avatar smiling and turning to face Sam "this mission looks like a dangerous one" "meaning" said Sam looking confused. "I ran tests to determine the chances of this mission being successful" said Eden "the statistics say we have a 28.27891% chance of succeeding." "Sounds like fun" said Sam "if that's your idea of fun" said Eden "anyway the mission is to extract the remaining personnel on the "Deep Black" and if possible destroy the ship to prevent the scourge from gaining the data on our computer systems." "roger that" said Sam "oh and Eden" "yeah" said Eden "when do we undock" "when we have finished refuelling" said Eden "as well as the repairs to our hull : should be another few minutes at most" "ok" said Sam "if you need me just say" "I will do that if it need you" said Eden "and thanks for agreeing to come" "it was your idea" asked Sam "positive" said Eden "and you were my first choice" "well thanks" said Sam. "gladly" said Eden.

"this is Interstellar command you are greenlight on mission" "copy" said Eden "commencing undock sequence" at that exact moment the docking clamps retracted with a huge bang that reverberated throughout the ship. There was a second thump as the docking tubes retracted. Then a third bang as armor sided over the exposed airlock entrances. There was a crackle of energy as

the Acrpcrthum armor engaged its tank. "main systems ready for launch" said the first officer" bringing weapons and engine drive cores online." "copy that" said Eden" I will take us out as soon as you give greenlight on all systems and subsystems. After a minute the first officer said "main systems are on line : subsystems are online : greenlight." "Endless voyage is greenlight" said Eden "request clearance for Torsion to "Deep Black's" last known location." "copy that Eden" said Interstellar command "stand by for clearance."

"Samantha you are no longer needed on the bridge" said Eden "you may leave if you want or stay up here to watch us go to Torsion" "this is Interstellar command you are cleared for Torsion : proceed to jumpoint 22A-732HY :jump on contact " "copy" said Eden "proceeding to jumpoint then jumping on contact" transparent armor proceeded to move over the bridges windows and with a thump they came to a stop over the windows and locked into place. The ship then proceeded to bank right and went flying towards the jumpoint. "30 seconds out" said Eden "jumping on contact"

Suddenly the ships Torsion drive began to spin up. And soon went from a quiet noise to a high pitch whine. "contact with jumpoint" said Eden "initiating Torsion."

There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the ship entering torsion. And all that was left at the jumpoint was a cloud of light grey mist that appeared whenever a ship began to go faster than light using a torsion drive. At the same time the ship gave a huge lurch forward and the contents of the ship lurched backwards by a few centimetres thanks to inertia dampeners. Leaving just the view from the bridge window that showed the blackness of the compressed space-time caused by using faster than light technology's.

And with that Sam left the bridge and headed back to the gravimetric acceleration tube and stepped in. instantly she was pulled into it and glided through the middle of the tunnel before being thrown out the other end. After landing on her feet she began to walk around the ship to try and find jack and Gemini. After a few minutes Sam found Gemini and jack looking through one of the windows that looked over the Dark fusion core in engineering. "well" said Sam "that went well." "I take it you got it sorted then" "yep" said Sam "I got it done : so how are you two then" "good thanks" said Gemini "but I still don't like flying." "I am ok" said Jack "we went and got a snack whilst we were waiting for you." "oh ok" said Sam "cool : oh and by the way can I have my rifle back" "yeah" said Jack "here you are." And jack picked up Sam's rifle off the window and handed it to Sam. "thanks" said Sam "let's go get something to eat" "yeah" said Jack "good idea :I am starving"

And with that Jack Sam and Gemini began to walk down the corridor to the canteen. Through the windows on their left they could not only see the other parts of their ship. But the static discharges arcing from the compressed space-time to the ship. "well" said Sam "not much of a view" "yep" said Gemini "you got that right." "so Sam" said Jack "what do you think are the odds of us finding survivors on the "Deep Black" then" "well it depends doesn't it" said Sam "on if the ship was prepared or not : and if it still had energy : as well as a great many other reasons" "true" said Jack "but should be interesting all the same" "you got that right" said Sam as they reached the entrance of the canteen and turned right and walked into it to get something to eat.

4 hours later

(barrier
Frontier)

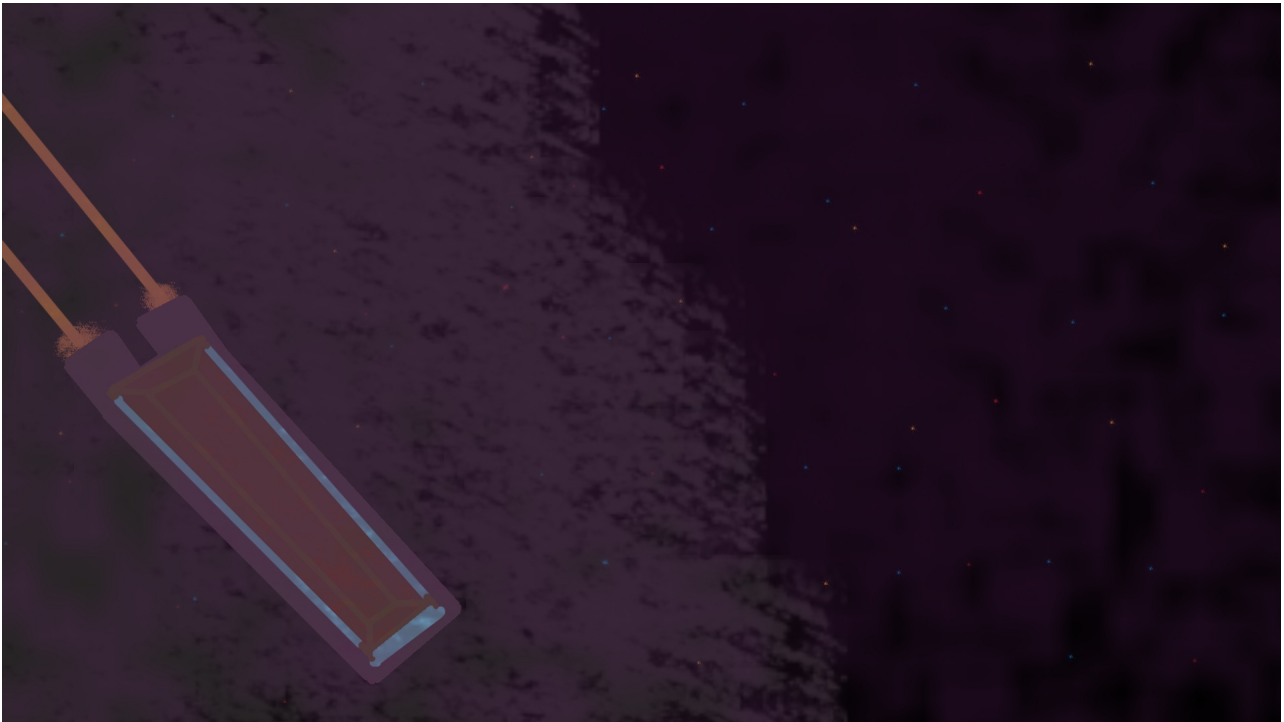
"Endless voyage"
Crew quarters)

The crew quarters were cramped with not much space to move. Sam was sitting in the corner on one of the bunks reading the manual for the "Endless voyage". And Gemini was charging her gravity assist belt on a charger on the ceiling. Then Jack suddenly poked his head out from the bunk above Sam "bit short on space" said Jack "you would of thought that we would have been given a proper bedroom at least" "you mean a room for living legends to rest" said Sam with a laugh "yeah that would be nice." "Sam" said Gemini "how much longer before we get there" "not long" said Sam "but this is nice : I enjoy the quiet before the mission" "true" said Jack "but it does make me nervous : personally I would just like to get started : the wait just gives you time to have second thoughts about the mission" "yeah" said Sam "I know what you mean" "so when are we going to go and sort me out with a weapon" asked Gemini "because I would like to know what I have to work with" "dam forgot about that" said Sam "tell you what lets go now" "we don't have to go now" said Gemini "I mean if your busy" "its ok" said Sam "I have got to go and get my ammo sorted anyway" "ooh" said Jack "what you going for" "high impact singularity induction rounds rounds" said Sam "should be very effective against the scourge : if they really are still on the "Deep Black" "still" said Jack "those rounds will lack the heat of the plasma rounds." "true but that should be negated by the increased range" said Sam placing her assault rifle on one of the magnetic clamps on her back "still I will be letting someone else take point" "I could" Said Jack "I have still got my singularity rifle" "cool" said Sam "let's do that" and with that Sam and Jack left the crew quarters to go and find the armoury.

Seeing this Gemini took her gravity assist belt off charge and began to follow close behind them so as to not get left behind. As they walked down the corridor to the armoury the ship began to experience light turbulence due to static build-up on the hull. Which occurs during longer durations of torsion. "Samantha Charles Eden" said Eden over the ship intercom "please report to the bridge in 5 minutes : repeat Samantha Charles Eden to the bridge in 5 minutes" "great" said Sam "we're almost there" "was that supposed to be sarcastic" asked Jack "or are you looking forward to it" "yeah" said Sam "I am looking forward to it : as it will be the most exciting thing I have done in at least a year" after another 30 seconds they arrived at the armoury and collected there weapons of their respective racks. "ah" said Sam looking towards Jack "the good old singularity rifle" "yeah" said Jack "it works" "ooh" said Gemini pointing at a dual plasma thrower "can I use that" "yeah alright" said Sam "just be careful." "yay" said Gemini grabbing the Plasma throwers back mounted fuel tanks and putting it on her back. She then picked up the two nozzles and held one in each hand. "right" said Sam "I am going to take this" and with that Sam placed her assault rifle onto an magnetic clamp mounted to her back. And picked up 4 orb pistols and an ARC Projection Cannon. "really Sam" said Jack "you're taking a lightning gun." "oh yeah" said Sam "should be super effective against the scourge" "right Sam we will be in the firing range testing these out." Said Jack "see you back here after you have done your thing on the bridge." "ok" said Sam. "will do."

(chapter 2)
(nobody's home)

(barrier
planet 35127
"Endless voyage"
bridge)



"and coming out of torsion" said the Helm officer "now". Suddenly this ship began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the bridge. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the ship arrived in orbit around planet 35127. "dust is clearing" said the Helm officer. "Roger that" said Eden her avatar reappearing on the bridge "once it clears scan local space for the "Deep Black" "on it" said the science officer "will be done in 30 seconds " "Sam I suggest you get to the ready room" said Eden "and get ready for boarding action." "roger that" said Sam and after turning towards the entrance she walked off the bridge. And after riding the gravimetric acceleration tube back down to the main deck. Sam proceeded to head towards the ready room that was located right next to the ships main airlock that opened down out the bottom of the ship. Gemini and Jack had already put their armour on and seeing this Sam quickly sorted her's . after she had finished putting on her armour she walked over to join them by the airlocks main door. "ready" Sam asked Jack. "yeah" said Jack "Gemini is ready as well" "yeah" said Gemini "I am" "be advised there is a vaporise Jamming field in effect" said the science officer over the comms to the ready room. "there are also no survivors so the new objective will be to retrieve the data from the ships computer core. Then you are to destroy the ship by overloading its dark fusion core you might need to use singularity charges if the computer system in engineering is offline: also we are 92 seconds away from boarding range." "solid copy" said Sam "we are standing by for deployment" "copy" said the tactical officer" and good luck" "right" said Sam taking the ARC Projection Cannon

off the magnetic clamps on her back and holding it with both hands near her waist. "it is important that we stick together : if in doubt get behind me" "ok" said Gemini "fine" "look Gemini this is important" said Jack " when we run into scourge they will be trying to kill us and we don't want you to be there direct line of fire." "Jack" asked Sam "you got the charges" "yep" said Jack "I have got them." "be advised" said Tactical "we are 30 seconds out." "acknowledged" said Sam "we are ready" after a few seconds had passed Sam grabbed her helmet and put it on. There was a quiet clanging noise as the metal of the armour and helmet touched before getting locked into place with electromagnets with a hiss of air escaping as the lock engaged. Seeing this Gemini and Jack did the same. And after their helmets had locked into place. They turned towards Sam before looking expectantly at the airlock door that lead to the ships boarding tube.

Suddenly there was a huge bang that reverberated throughout the whole ship. As the boarding clamps engaged with the hull of the "Deep Black". Shortly after there was a second bang as the boarding tube connected with the airlock on the other ship and engaged its electromagnetic locking system. "this is tactical to away team" said the Tactical officer "we are connected :be advised link will be terminated once you clear the airlock on the far side. :then we will remain in holding pattern around "Deep Black" until you are ready for pickup." "copy that" said Sam "see you in a bit" and with that Sam walked over to the control panel to the right of the airlocks door. And after inputting her airlock access code the airlocks door opened and ahead of them was a 100 meter tube with all 4 sides being only 5 centimetres of diamond glass from deep space. "and away we go" said Sam "taking the first steps into the boarding tube. Only to be followed seconds after by Jack and Gemini. "that's some view" said Jack looking out of the boarding tube. "yeah" said Sam "it's one good view" "what's that glowing in the distance" said Gemini. "is that the barrier" "yes" said Sam as they got to the halfway point of the boarding tube. "just a quick mission update" said the Tactical officer. "can you go to the security control centre and download the events of the last week before you destroy the ship as it might give some insight into what happened. "copy that" said Sam "we will swing past the security control centre on the way to computer core then we will head to engineering to destroy the ship." "copy that " said the Tactical officer. "good luck" and with that they reached the far side of the boarding tube and after passing into the airlock the clamps were disengaged and the boarding tube was retracted. "right" said Sam "it's up to us now : let's go" "agreed" said Jack "I am right behind you" "and in we go" said Sam tapping a few buttons to open the airlock door that led onto the ship.

Inside they found that the scourge growths had consumed almost the entire ship and was slowly spreading across the walls and through the air vents. "well" said Sam "this is bad" "your right there" said Jack "because if they can access the ships computer systems then we might already be to late." "then let's move" said Gemini "to the computer core" and with that Sam , Jack and Gemini began to run down the corridor. After a few minutes Sam said "hold up" "what is it" asked Jack. "there is something moving ahead of us." Said Sam. "yeah I can feel it to" said Gemini. "so what do we do." "easy" said Sam taking the ARC Projection Cannon off the electromagnetic clamps on her back. "we let them come to us" within seconds a group of 5 scourge came out of a air vent and leaped towards sam. Sam fired the ARC Projection Cannon and the corridor was lit by blue lightening as it arced from the tip of the gun across to the scourge as well as the floor and walls.

The scourge tanked the ARC Projection Cannon for all of 3 seconds before exploding Into a cloud of blood and crystals. "well that's that sorted" said Sam as the lighting on the ship switched to its emergency lighting as the ARC Projection Cannon had damaged an important power coupling. "yeah shame about the bad lighting now though" said Jack "darker lighting will make our job harder." "this is the Endless voyage" said Eden "we have entered a holding pattern around the

"Deep Black" and are ready to extract you once the mission objectives have been completed."
"copy that" said Sam "thanks Eden. "no problem "said Eden "just make sure you come back in one piece." "copy that" said Sam.

Just then the "Deep Black's" superstructure gave a metallic groan and seconds later there was the tell-tale bang of explosive decompression. "this ship is falling apart " said Sam " we are going to have to be quick." "ok then " said Gemini nervously "where to" "my holomap"said Jack" states that the computer core is 100 meters north of us" "so lets go" said Sam "and lets get to the computer core before the scourge get hold of our data" "thats assuming they can" said Jack "I mean they evolved In another universe so they might not even be able to interface with our teck." "yeah" said Gemini "but even if they could we still need to retrieve the data to find out what happened."

"I agree with both you and Sam." said Jack "lets move" they turned north and began to sprint down the corridor that was only just being lit up by the ships limited emergency lighting. "Sam" said Eden "we just picked up an explosive decompression not far from your current position. : are you ok." "yeah" said Sam "was a bit of a jumpy moment though" "confirmed" said Eden "and remember we well be ready to extract you as soon as the data has be acquired." "copy that" said Sam "we will keep you updated with our progress" "I got movement" said Jack "25 meters to our north-east and closing.

"I got this" said Gemini and as soon as the scourge came sliding around the corridor Gemini fired both her plasma throwers and two huge columns of purple plasma shot out of the plasma throwers nozzles. The corridor was lit up a dark flickering purple and as the plasma reached the scourge it vaporised instantly leaving a small puddle of its liquefied insides on the floor. "ok" said Sam "that was pretty disgusting" "yeah" said Jack "but it was very effective" "Jack" said Sam "lets just get this mission done ok" "ok" said Jack "lets finish this" "right" said Gemini "lets go." and a 30 seconds later they arrived at the door to the computer core. "dam" said Jack trying the keypad next to the door "its locked" "don't worry" said Sam "I got this" and with that a singularity was brought into existence inside the door and the door imploded. Through the ruined door frame you could see hundreds of dynamic hardware crystals that made up the ships computer. "right" said Sam stepping through the door "we need to find an access point" "right" said Jack " Gemini can you help with finding the access point." "yeah" Said Gemini "sure" after searching the computer core for the best part of half an hour Sam finally found an access point in the form of a holoscreen.

"ok" said Sam as she began tapping away on the holoscreen "I got this" "err Sam" said Gemini "how much time do you need to extract the data" "about 20 seconds" said Sam "why" "because thats 20 seconds we do not have" said Gemini looking worried " I can feel at least 20 scourge closing on our position." "ok" Said Sam "almost done but get ready" "ok" said Jack taking out his singularity rifle. "ready to engage" "contact" said Gemini and began opening fire at the scourge that were pouring out from the walls and ceiling. Seconds later Jack began shooting his singularity rifle at the scourge thinning the swarm that was charging at them. "right got it" said Sam placing the Arc cannon on one of the magnetic clamps on her back before pulling her assault rifle off the other clamp and opening fire at the scourge with each round causing the scourge to implode. "Eden" said Sam "we have encountered heavy scourge resistance and have the data : we are now headed to engineering to overload the ships dark fusion core " "confirmed" said Eden "let us know when the you have completed the objective so that we can move in and pick you up." "copy that" said Sam "alright let's move"

Sam , Jack and Gemini proceeded to leave the room the way they came in and began to run down the corridor that lead to engineering. With the corridor lights flashing red and the "Endless

voyage” Orbiting the “Deep Black” Sam was finally in here element and this was shown as when a scourge came flying at her out of a maintenance access tube she instantly placed her assault rifle on its magnetic clamp on her back and grabbed her two Acrpcrthum sticks off the waist of her armour and extended her arms and pushed in the bottoms of the sticks. The sticks sprung to life generating 2 pickaxe heads made of pure energy. She then dived towards the scourge and rammed both the pick axes into it killing the scourge life form in the process. She landed with it on the floor a few meters away and with some difficulty puled the now offline Acrpcrthum sticks out of the scourge lifeform. “bit close” said Sam “but on we go”

“good news” said Gemini “I can feel the energy radiating off the Dark fusion core : we are close.” “cool” said Jack “the sooner we are off this ship the better.” “Sam” said Eden “ 4 scourge carriers just landed on grid : we are going to have to make this quick” “copy that” said Sam “do you still want the charges to be place in engineering on the Dark Fusion Core.” “negative” said Eden “we no longer have enough time for that just plant it as close as you can get to the core in the next minuet.” “solid copy” said Sam “right the mission just got updated we are to place the charges as close to the Dark fusion Core as possible then extract.” “I sense “said Gemini “that the ships superstructure is badly damaged about 15 meters from where we are now.” “and that should destroy the ship” said Sam “good thinking” “right said Jack lets go.” “right follow me” said Gemini running off down a side corridor. With Sam and Jack running behind her. “mission update” said Eden “the scourge carriers are engaging us at falloff range : you have just minutes to get back onto our ship.” “understood” said Sam “meet us at airlock 7 for extraction” “confirmed” said Eden “but you will have to be quick” “that’s ok said Sam I don’t plan on staying long” “right said Gemini stopping at a crossover in the corridor “the structural integrity is lowest on this central pillar : so I would plant the charge on the pillar” “ok” said Jack as he placed the charges on the pillar and armed each one and set a 75 second timer. “right charges armed let’s move ; and fast” “right then to the airlock” said Sam “and don’t stop running”

Sam ,jack and Gemini began to run towards the airlock and as they cleared the side corridor there was a huge bang as the boarding tube from “Endless voyage” latched onto airlock 7 on “Deep black” “right we are almost there” yelled Sam as she was running towards the airlock down the corridor that ran along the side of the ship. “that’s good” said Jack. “that’s really good” “err Sam” yelled Gemini “we have scourge blocking the airlocks doors.” “ok got this” yelled Sam and as she rounded the bend and the airlock came into view at the end of a short corridor she grabbed her ARC Projection Cannon off her back and began to fire it at the group of scourge in front of the airlock.

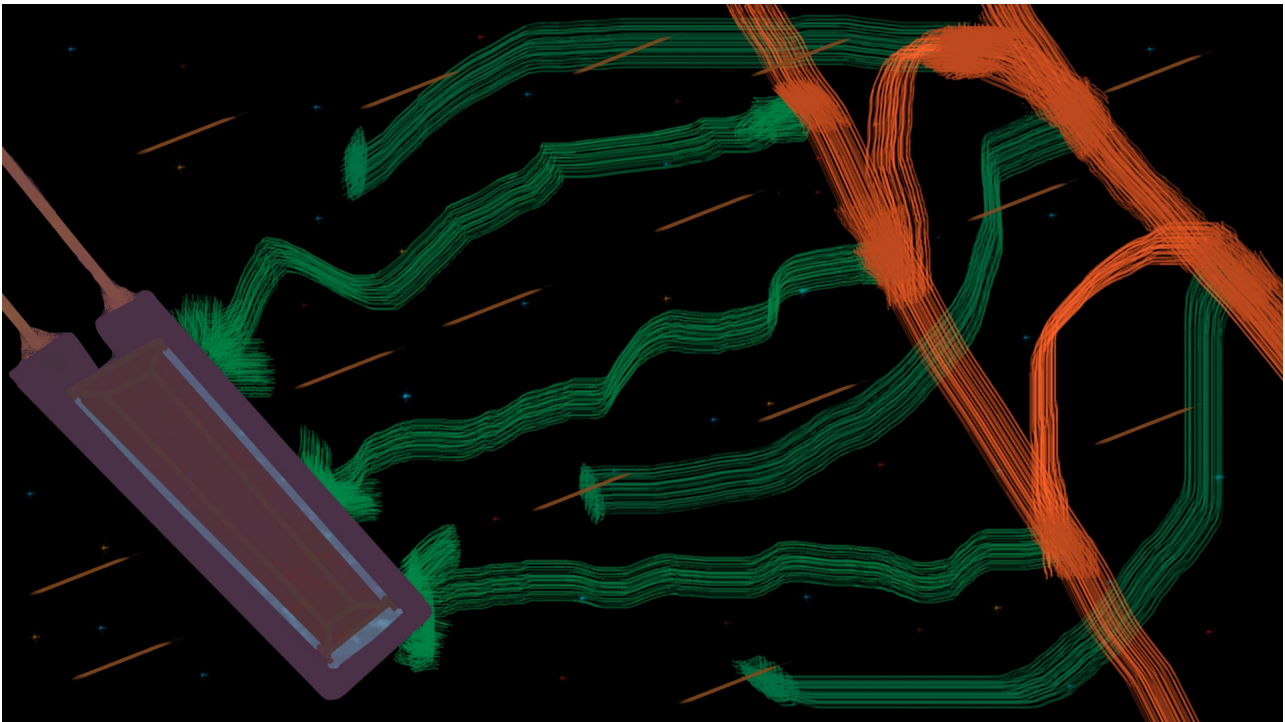
The lightning hit the first one and proceeded to arc to all the surrounding ones exploding the scourge as it jumped from scourge to scourge. When she reached the door she fired the ARC Projection Cannon at the keypad exploding it and opening the door and with that she began to run down the boarding tube closely followed by Jack and Gemini. All around them she could see the scourge spines and acid impacting the hull of the “Endless voyage”. Its Acrpcrthum armour glowing slightly with each weapon hit. “how come they aren’t shooting the “Deep black” yelled Jack “that ships ours too” “probably because it has got scourge on it” said Sam as a scourge fighter narrowly missed the boarding tube and went crashing into the Acrpcrthum hull of the “Endless voyage”. After a few more seconds that felt like an eternity they reached the already open outer airlock door of the “Endless voyage” and ran inside. After a brief few seconds as the boarding tube retraced the armour moved back into position over the airlock. As well as the decontamination system had cycled the airlock opened and let them onto the “Endless voyage”.

(chapter 3)
(Escape)

(barrier
planet 35127
"Endless voyage")

"all personnel brace for torsion" said Eden "in 3 2 1" the ship lurched forward then was pulled out of torsion by the scourge carrier. "torsion field collapse" said Eden "going to broadcast" "that's not good" "no its not" said Sam "we are going to need support" "well" said Gemini "Eden did call for backup: so it should be here any moment now" then suddenly there were three huge flashes of light and 38 dreadnoughts came out of torsion. And began firing at the scourge carriers. "221 Th fleet has jumped through and is engaging" said Eden "our support has arrived" "Samantha Charles Eden and Gemini Eden" said Eden "please report to the bridge." "sorry Jack" said Sam "I got to go : I will be back shortly though" "ok" said Jack "I will hold you to that." Then suddenly there was a huge flash of light and the "Deep Black" imploded as the explosion from the charge breached its Dark Fusion Core. "armour is down to 78%" said Eden as Sam and Gemini turned towards the direction of the bridge before starting to run down the corridor that lead to the gravimetric acceleration tube that would take them to the bridge.

(barrier
planet 35127
"Endless voyage"
bridge)



"Eden" said the tactical officer "38 Aurora dreadnoughts just landed on grid" "copy" said Eden "make sure we are all focusing all of our firepower on one carrier at a time so as to clear the field

of their capitals as quickly as possible." "copy that" said the tactical officer "the acid and spines being launched from the scourge carriers continued flying at the "Endless voyage" then suddenly one of the blobs of acid managed to melt its way through a section of armour and completely destroyed one of the ships armour repair fluid storage tanks. This triggered the red alert klaxons and the lighting on the bridge turned to a red and began to pulse on and off. "Eden" said Tactical "section 822 of our armour is down and we are now losing repair fluid into the depths of space." "confirmed" said Eden "I am closing off that section to stop more fluid loss." "this is Amethyst be advised my fleet is shield tanked so it is important that you tank the acid being fired by their carriers :leave the spines to us." "we might not be able to do that" said Eden "our armour repair systems are destabilising and we have already entered superstructure in section 822." "understood" said Amethyst "we will be primeing the carrier that has you held on the fight once you have found out which one it is: and once its down you can extract as we can clear the field on our own." "confirmed" said Eden as there was a huge flash of bright blue light as the 221 TH fleet fired there heavy ion cannons at the scourge carriers.

The weapon systems of the "Endless voyage" had finally loaded and with that Eden fired a huge salvo of heavy singularly missiles. "Eden" said the tactical officer "be advised there is still good damage on the field." "confirmed" said Eden "I am doing my best to tank it." Then suddenly Sam and Gemini appeared out of the gravimetric acceleration tube and ran up to the captain's chair. "so Eden" said Sam as the scourge ships continued to shoot at the Titan Core and Aurora ships "how are we doing" "not good" said Eden "as you might of figured out we are stuck on this fight until we can figure out which carrier has disrupted our torsion drive." "I can help with that" said Gemini as she was tapping into here senses "got it: it's the carrier on the far left." "copy" that "said Tactical "engaging" and as he said that 2000 heavy singularly missiles came shooting out of the launchers on the bottom of the "Endless voyage" and went flying at high speed towards the scourge carriers. As the missiles crossed the halfway point the heavy ion cannons being used by the 122 TH Aurora fleet changed there targets to the scourge carrier that the "Endless voyage" was already shooting at. "yep" said Eden as the missiles and ion beams connected with the scourge carrier and it exploded into a cloud of blood and crystals. "that was the right one : torsion drive is now back online" "cool" said Sam taking out a dynamic hardware crystal and placing it in the holder of the holographic planning table "and I have more good news :we got the data" "data upload confirmed" said Eden "thanks for your help" after a few seconds Eden opened up comms with Amethyst. "Amethyst we have the data and are going to have to return to base due to the damage we have sustained: will you be ok to finish off the remaining ships on your own." "oh" said Amethyst "sure" "ok" said Eden "we will get ready for torsion" the scourge carriers were still shooting at the "Endless voyage" and its tank was barely holding due to the amount of strike craft attacking the ship. Then after a minute Eden said "torsion drive system at 100% charge entering torsion" there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and everything was pushed back a few centimetres as the "Endless voyage" made the transition into torsion. "wow" Said Gemini looking out the window into the compressed space-time of torsion "that was a pretty hard mission" "really" asked Sam "I have been on worse so for me that was all in a day's work." "disengaging Red Alert Klaxons" said Eden "I mean they were getting annoying anyway." "very true" said Sam "very true"

(chapter 4)
(data analysis)

(barrier
planet 35127
"Endless voyage"
Crew quarters)

With her gravity assist belt on charge Gemini had gone to sleep in an anti-gravity chamber located at the back corner of the room. Leaving just Sam and Jack in front of the room's window that was looking out into the compressed spacetime that surrounded the ship when in torsion. "well" said Jack looking at Sam "that went well" "you mean we didn't get killed." Said Sam "you know it wasn't always like this." "what do you mean" asked Jack suddenly looking more interested. "well" said Sam "humanity was not always on one side" "what are you referring to" asked Jack. "At some point in the past there was a huge war in which a whole star system was destroyed." Said Sam "from what little we have been able to piece together from the remains of that star system there was many different splinters of humanity based in that system not the unified civilisation of what we are today." "ok" said Jack "so what does that mean." "my guess is that that star system was once home to the original humans" said Sam "I believe that that was the planet that we came from. This is supported even more by the fact that the starships found in that system were not of a standard design but of many different designs each one using a different but still similar form of propulsion." "yeah but what does this all mean" asked Jack. "it's simple" said Sam "as there is evidence that the humans that we descended from lived in Andromeda a galaxy that was far enough away from the probable human Homeworld system that they wouldn't be found for many years. : then presumably relations fell apart and a war started between the original groups that made up the old humanity and the new group that lived in Andromeda. : but that is where it gets really interesting. : for you see there is no evidence that any of our ships were lost in that fight." "yeah" said Jack "that's odd" "another interesting point" said Sam "is that all of the advanced weapons seemed to only be fitted to ships on our side : we had basic liquid metal projection cannons the predecessors to Ion Cannons and it seems that all they had was pretty bad kinetic weapons which were very low power." "yeah" said Jack "I wonder why it happened" "I don't know" said Sam "all I know is that it would have been a short war : a few hours at most."

"well" said Sam looking away from the window and going to sit down on one of the lower bunks. "sorry for the rant" "that's ok" said Jack "finding about the past of our species is interesting."

What followed was a 4 minutes of an odd silence before Eden opened up the intercom and said "ok everybody the 522 TH fleet is about to gate into triangulum so I am going to drop us out of torsion and join them to save us some fuel." Just then the "Endless voyage" Suddenly began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the room. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the ship arrived near in a star system that Sam had never seen before by the name of 22-16-B. "out of the window Sam could see the already linked gate ship and a few cruisers from the 522 TH fleet. Then as the Eeriseis-897 got up

to full speed within the gateships there was a huge flash of Yellow light then a huge flash of red light then out of a hole in the fabric of spacetime the quantum entanglement tunnel began to open. And within a second it had expanded all the way to the start of the inner ring of the linked up gateships. And through it you could see the shipyards of triangulum. After seeing that it was open the 522 TH fleet moved all its ships into triangulum with each ship emitting a grey pulse of light as it passed through the gate. Then it was the turn of their ship and the “Endless voyage” began flying towards the gate ship at high speed.

“well this is convenient” said Sam “now we will get done much faster” “yeah” said Jack “that must of cut off like half the duration off the trip” then out of the window they could see the gateships hull for all of a few seconds before there was a huge pulse of grey light and they too were thrown through the quantum entanglement tunnel. three seconds later they had arrived in triangulum and the ship began to bank toward the docking bay where they would be meeting Admiral Vine. As they flew away Sam looked back out the window and managed to catch a quick look at the quantum entanglement tunnel connection before the gateships terminated the connection and the quantum entanglement tunnel collapsed with a flash of green light. Then after the liquid Eeriseis-897 had been brought to a stop by huge bulkhead doors. The gateships proceeded to separate into their 9 component ships. Which then along with the supporting core destroyers went straight into torsion to set up another connection somewhere else in Triangulum.

After docking Sam Jack and Gemini went straight to admiral vines office and walked in. “right” said Sam “we have completed the mission” “that’s good news” said Admiral Vine getting up out of his chair that was located behind his desk. “so let’s see it then” “here” said Sam throwing the Dynamic Hardware Crystal that housed the data from the mission onto vines desk “oh and by the way that is the last thing I am ever doing for you : and that : is final” “understood” said Admiral Vine. “thanks for the help” “your welcome” said Sam sarcastically. “and I hope our paths don’t cross again.”

And with that Sam Jack and Gemini left the room and began to walk back down to the docking bay to find a ship to take them home. “you know” said Jack “I am getting tired of the whole eternal war thing” “I am guessing that you’re referring to the last 100,000 or so years of war” said Sam “yeah and you know what the sad thing is” “what do you mean” said Jack as they passed a window that looked out into space where many ships were coming and going from the triangular shipyards. “wow that’s quite some view.” Said Sam “and what I mean is that this war started over 100,000 years ago and I wasn’t around then ; I am just saying I haven’t known a time where humanity hasn’t been at war ; I wonder what it’s like to not be in a constant state of war. “ “probably quite boring” said Jack “I mean all this rushing around to save the day does keep you occupied.” “oh come on” said Gemini “there must be something that you can do if there’s no war happening.” “true” said Sam “but to find out what that thing is we would have to first find it and then figure out how to declare war against it.” “you mean use it” said Gemini laughing slightly. “and here’s the hanger” “cool” said Sam “let’s find a ship” then as they stepped through the door there were ambushed by Ruby. “hey how are you lot” said Ruby “haven’t seen you in at least a year” “oh we are good thanks” said Sam “how are you then” “ah I am ok” said Ruby “you know budget cuts mean that the 27-4A isn’t what it used to be but it still kinda works.” “hey Ruby” said Jack “could you give us a lift home” “what and take a battleyard out of position just to help three people.” Said Ruby “yeah sure why not; I mean you have helped me out in the past so I don’t mind helping you out in return.” “wow” said Sam “thanks ; you sure that you are available to do it.” “Yeah” said Ruby “it’s no problem ; right follow me to my ship I guess” “err Ruby” said Sam “you know that you can vaporise to the ship right” “oh yeah” said Ruby “I like totally knew that” and with that Ruby

took out her holo-tablet and used it to vaporise them all to the bridge of the "27-4A".

(Triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
titan core shipyard
"27-4A"
bridge)

Just seconds later and with a huge bang they arrived on the bridge of the "27-4A" in a cloud of orange mist and after the orange mist had dissipated from in front of them Ruby walked over to her first officer who was standing next to the captain's chair holding a holo-tablet. "oh yeah" said Ruby "if you can hang out in my quarters until we reach your place as I have some stuff I need to see to" "yeah sure" said Sam "that's no problem"

"right" said Sam "lets head to Rubys quarters so as to stay out of her way" "yeah let's do that" said Jack "after all commanding a starship is hard enough without people distracting you."

"ok fair enough" said Gemini "let's go" as Sam Jack and Gemini walked away into Ruby's quarters that's were situated at the back of the bridge the "27-4A" Suddenly the ships Torsion drive began to spin up. And soon went from a quiet noise to a high pitch whine. "ok trajectory alignment confirmed" said ruby's first officer "initiating Torsion." There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the "27-4A" entering torsion. And many of the screens on the bridge lurched backwards slightly due to inertia.

And with that Sam , Jack and Gemini arrived at the door to Ruby's quarters and Sam tapped a code into the holographic keypad next to the door and stepped inside. At the far end of the room there was a huge window that was looking into the compressed spacetime of torsion. "talk about lack of a view" said Sam looking around for somewhere to sit. "I mean that I know we are moving faster than light can travel but still space looks so weird when your look out the window of a ship in torsion. "ah ha" said Gemini "there's the sofa" Gemini then proceeded to sit down on the sofa. Meanwhile Sam and jack were quietly talking next to the window. "so" said Sam "based on her performance do you want to take Gemini on the mission against the scourge." "yes I do" said Jack "because I think she can handle it. I mean we will be with here anyway right." "ok fine" said Sam "after all I trust your judgement."

(chapter 5)
(hanging out)

(Classified space Station
Frontier
Bio dome 31-B)

Katia and Villiam were in one of the bio domes on the space station they called home. The bio dome had a very strange assortment of plants as unlike most bio domes on starships this one was kept in zero gravity this meant that plants grew very differently than on a planet's surface. Katia was lying a few centimetres from the surface of a tree trunk alongside Villiam and they were both looking into the depths of space. "wow" said Katia looking out into space that's some view" "yeah and zero g bio domes aren't something you see every day either." Said Villiam "I mean most have gravity." "yeah and most places" said Katia "have the option of bringing food into their bio domes. ; not like this one" "yeah but then most aren't in zero g" said Villiam "so that something to consider." "tell you what" said Katia "want to get some zero g manoeuvring practise." "what" said Villiam "by chasing you around the bio dome again" "nope" said Katia "I was thinking of chasing

you” and with that Villiam pushed off the tree and disappeared behind another. “right I am coming” said Katia as she pushed herself off the tree and then gave it a kick to propel herself across the room. As she floated past the tree that Villiam had passed behind she grabbed one of its branches and proceeded to pull herself after him. Seeing Katia was still following him Villiam grabbed vine and his momentum proceeded to swing him upwards. This took Katia by surprise and she flew past and as whist she was looking towards Villiam collided face first into another tree trunk and Knocked herself out. Seeing this Villiam lets the vine swing all the way around the tree before letting go to float over to Katia. “you ok” said Villiam moving Katia away from the tree a little. Hearing no response he decided to take her back to their apartment. Knowing that the best thing for her would be to sleep it off and let her nanoswarm repair the damage.

(Triangulum
“27-4A”
bridge)

after a few minutes Ruby walked in and sat down on the sofa next to Gemini before calling Sam and Jack over from the window. Once they were all sitting on the sofa Ruby launched straight into an apology. “sorry about that” said Ruby “I am being kept really busy getting the fleets organised for the upcoming battle against the scourge where they live.” “so what took you so long” said Sam “you know to be done on the bridge.” “oh come on” said Ruby “when is a captains job ever done ; no I was speaking with sapphire and Amethyst.” “wait a second” said Sam “Sapphire , Ruby ,Amethyst ; are you related” “yes” said Ruby “I mean I would of thought that was pretty obvious.” “true” said Sam “I am surprised I didn’t figure that out earlier.” “well that life for you” said Ruby “sometimes even things that should be the easiest to find can be the hardest to find”

“so” said Jack “what were you talking about” “we were talking about the strategy we want to use for the next mission” said Ruby “we were also talking about what Nova and Cray are planning on mobilising for then mission” “and” asked Sam crossing her arms “the result was” “I think” said Ruby “that it basically came down to saving their huge and supposedly secret pile of crates full of chocolate chip cookies , waffles and pancakes ; a huge waste of cargo space if you ask me” “wait a second” said Sam laughing “how many ships cargo holds did they fill up” “oh” said Ruby “a good 38,627 ship yards and 26,492 battle yards and dreadnoughts.” “ok” said Sam “dedicating that many ships to moving snacks is a complete waste of our assets.” “what” said Gemini “you mean they actually did that” “oh yeah” said Ruby “they just finished a few minutes ago” “ok” said Sam “that’s it ; I am going to send them a message telling them what a stupid idea that was” “oh come on Sam” said Ruby “they said we could all share the snacks if we didn’t mention it to anyone” “oh in that case” said Sam “I never heard anything and this conversation never happened ok.” “yeah” Said Ruby “whatever you say”

(Tri circle
Aura
cravon’s nebular
Ventura

27-4A captains quarters)

After a few minutes Ruby was contacted by her tactical officer saying that they had arrived in orbit around Ventura. “right” said Ruby “thanks for the company” “so I take it we have arrived at Ventura then” said Sam looking at Ruby. “yep” said Ruby nodding towards Sam “we should be

exiting torsion any second now” Suddenly began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the room. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the ship arrived near in a star system that Sam had seen many times before Ventura or in other words home. “well here we are” said Ruby taking a look out the window “here we are ; you can vaporise to your house from here right” “where in the orbit are we” asked Sam. “we are in a high geostationary orbit around the area above your apartment” said Ruby “you should be in vaporisation range” “cool” said Sam “ and thanks a lot for the lift” “no problem” said Ruby “oh and Sam stay safe.” “you too” said Sam “these are dangerous times for all of us” “yeah like that hasn’t happened before” said Ruby “anyway bye for now” “alright” Said Jack “bye for now” “yeah” said Gemini “bye then” and with that Jack and Gemini grabbed hold of Sam’s outstretched hands and within a second they were gone leaving just a glowing bright green mist where they were standing just a few seconds before.

(Tri circle
Aura
cravon’s nebular
Ventura

Sam Jack and Gemini’s apartment
Living room)

Just seconds later and with a huge bang they arrived back home in a cloud of orange mist. Once the orange mist cleared a few seconds later Sam immediately let go of Gemini and Jack and ran into the kitchen to cook some food. “right” said Jack “home once again” “yeah” said Gemini “I like it here ; it’s a relaxed atmosphere rather unlike the decks of a starship that has come under attack.” “very true” said Jack “very true” “who wants the onion soup” yelled Sam from the kitchen “you know from before we went to that briefing.” “it’s been a few days Sam” said Jack “I would say through it out” “ok” said Sam as she tipped the soup into the incinerator that had been installed the previous month to keep the amount of rubbish in the apartment to a minimum” “what should I cook then” yelled Sam from the kitchen. “you still want onion soup” “err yes” said Gemini “that would be nice” “ok” yelled Sam “ I shall cook some more” “well” said Gemini taking off her gravity assist belt and putting it on charge next to the sofa before sitting down on the sofa herself. “that was exciting” “yeah” said Jack sitting down next to her “I suppose it was” “dangerous though” said Sam “I mean it is the scourge we are going up against.”

(triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
lws system
Trei 111
Interstellar command)

“evening people” said Nova as he walked back into the main control room that was overlooking a huge holographic map of the known universe. “How’s things going.” “just gateing freighters full of zentrerium from Hosstt and several other planets to triangulum as we are running low on fuel.” Said Cray “how’s your day been.” “ah it’s been ok” said Nova “just came back from a two week patrol on the frontier.” “anything interesting happen ” asked Cray “any sign of the scourge” “no we didn’t see any scourge” said Nova “in fact the most interesting thing to happen on the whole trip is someone thought it would be funny to keep changing the direction of the gravity in my sleeping quarters.” “ha” said Cray “sounds like fun” “not really” said Nova “it was really annoying”

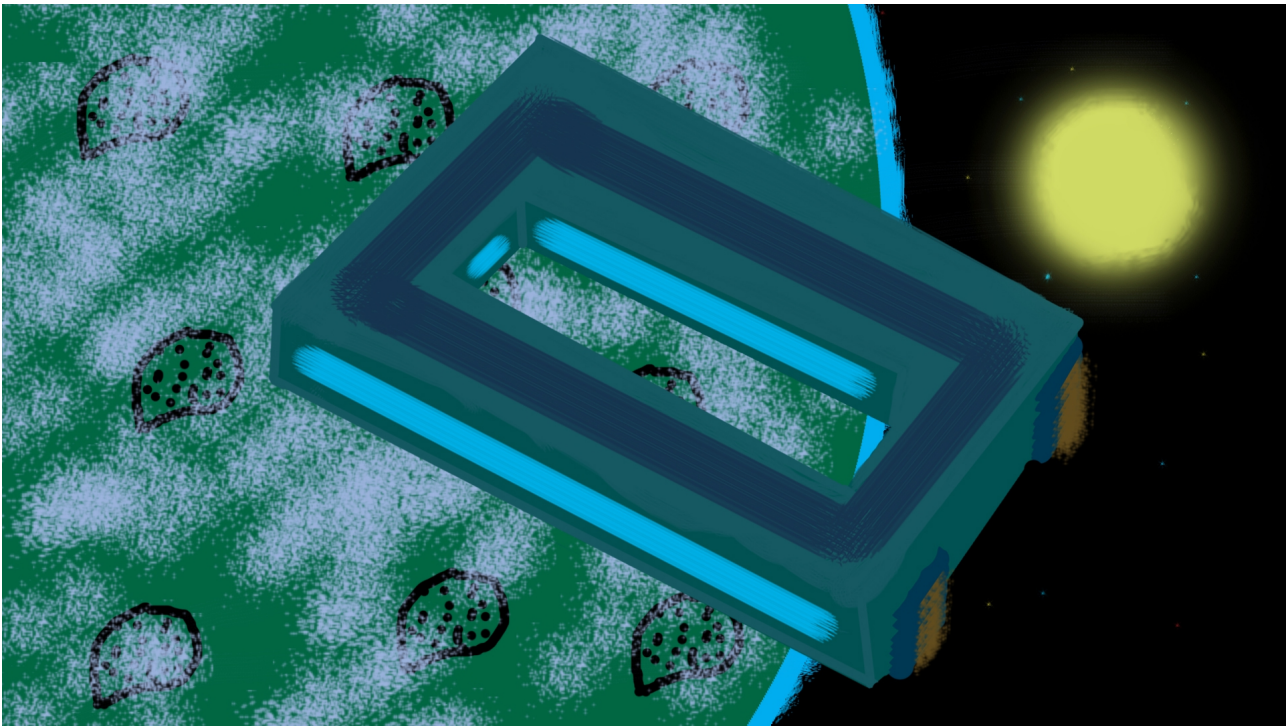
“yeah” said Cray “sounds like it.”

(Classified space Station
Frontier
Bio dome 31-B)

Meanwhile villiam had one arm around Katia and the other grabbed hold of a branch so he wouldn't float off. After a while Katia looked more responsive. “Katia” said villiam “you ok” “yeah” said Katia “got a bit of a headache thought” “fair enough” said Villiam “but still you could look where you are going” “yeah” said Katia “I know spatial awareness has never been one of my strong points; oh and you can stop hugging me now” “what” said villiam letting her go “I was stopping you floating into another tree” “yeah” said Katia “I know I was only teasing” and with that she launched into a proper hug with Villiam. “hi hi” said Karros “hows things” “good” said Katia letting go of Villiam and pushing herself towards the branch before grabbing hold of it and brushing some hair out of her right eye. “you” “I didn't interrupt you did I” said Karros “if so I am sorry” “nah” said Katia in an very unconvincing tone “we did invite you here after all.” “true” said Villiam floating next to Katia “very true” “so” said Katia still floating next to the tree “do what do you feel like doing.” “we could go for supper together” said Karros “I know a good place not far from this station” “yeah ok ” said Villiam “I mean I am pretty hungry ; so whereabouts is it” “quii 14” said Karros “it's a space station on the frontier not far from here I would say about 5 maybe 10 minutes trip in torsion” “and the food that they have there is good” said Katia “as I don't really like going out to eat” “yeah” said Karros “it's really good ; in fact it is my favourite place to eat out” “right then” said Villiam “let's go” “yes” said Katia “to the hanger bay” and with that she pushed Villiam towards the exit airlock on the bio dome before pushing herself off the tree and towards the exit. When they got into the main part of the space station it was very busy with people floating around all over the place. Each person trying to get home as fast a possible. “yay” said Katia “rush hour again ; you got to love it” “yeah” said villiam “I guess”

(chapter 6)
(new assignments)

(Tri circle
Aura
cravon's nebular
Ventura
Sam Jack and Gemini's apartment
Living room)



“hey look” said Sam looking out of the window and up into space where she could see the “27-4A” about to enter torsion. “ruby’s leaving” Then suddenly there was a huge flash of grey light “27-4A” entered torsion leaving behind a grey mist. “wow” said Gemini “I didn’t realise battleyards were so big you could see them from the surface of the planet.” “well they are pretty big” said Jack “so I am not surprised that we can see one from here.” “yeah” said Sam “there are 19,326,461 meters long so that would be big enough to see from space .” “incoming transmission” said the apartment’s AI “priority transcom 1” “thanks” said Sam standing up and walking over to the rooms’ main holo-projection surface. Which was idling with a rotating Titan Core logo in the middle of the screen. She tapped the screen. Instantly it sprung to life and brought up her workspace. She then tapped the except button on her workspace. “Samantha Charles Eden” Said Nova “one of our border worlds just came under heavy attack ; we need you to hold them off in orbit whilst we complete the civilian extraction.” “solid copy” said Sam “what are we flying” “I am assigning you to the “38-9C” said Nova “it’s a modified battleyard which can deploy into a mode which allows it to gate ships onto a fight.” “understood” said Sam “and who is the captain for the ship then.” “you are” said Nova “this ship is a gift to you to say thanks for all you have done for humanity : we have even left space to move your apartment on-board as your living area.” “wow thanks” said Sam “where should we head to board the ship” “it should be arriving in orbit around Ventura any moment now” said Nova and once it’s in orbit the crew will vaporise your apartment into position on-board the ship then when your on the mission they will finish integrating the ship with your apartment“ “and” said Sam “ I am guessing that’s why the main holo-projection surface. In our living room has such advanced hardware” “yes” said Nova “we have been trying to get you this ship for years but it took many years to build which was a bit unexpected.” “let me guess” said Jack “most of the parts had to be custom made.” “yes” said Nova “indeed most of the parts were produced specifically for your ship ; they were quite the challenge to install too” “fair” enough “said Gemini then suddenly there was a massive flash of grey light and the “38-9C” exited torsion leaving a huge cloud of grey mist” “the “38-9C” requests permission to vaporise your apartment on-board” “ok” said Sam taking hold of Gemini’s outstretched hand. “ready” and at that very moment the entire apartment disappeared leaving just a glowing bright green mist where the apartment was just seconds before.”

(Tri circle
Aura
cravon's nebular
Ventura
"38-9C" Sam Jack and Gemini's apartment
Living room)

Seconds later they arrived in a huge cloud of orange mist and once it had cleared Sam let go of Gemini's hand. "captain Eden please report to the bridge" said the ship's first officer "right I got to go" said Sam "I will see you in a bit ; ok ; oh and Jack look after Gemini for me." And with that Sam walked out the main door and onto the bridge "captain on deck" announced the first officer. And everyone on the bridge stood up and saluted Sam. "Carry on" said Sam and everyone went back to tapping away at their various holographic stations. "Captain Eden I am your first officer Sarah so if you need anything I am here to help." "ok" said Sam "don't suppose you know where the captain's chair is" "I know where that is" said Sarah "this way" and Sarah turned around and walked towards the front of the bridge. After a minute they reached an area that contained 9 people on holographic consoles surrounded by a large number of curved holographic screens. And on top of all of that there was also a holographic viewscreen that was aligned with the bridge's main window that was currently looking out over the orbital line of Ventura looked out into the depths of space. "captain Eden" said Sarah "all systems report ready for torsion to border world 21-211-23-32-14" "understood" "engage torsion drive" "solid copy" said Sarah "engaging torsion drive" and just seconds later there was a huge flash of grey light and the "38-9C" left the orbital line of Ventura for the compressed space-time that is torsion. Leaving only a fine grey mist where they were just seconds before.

(Tri circle
Aura
cravon's nebular
Ventura
"38-9C" bridge)

"incoming transmission" said Sarah "it's from interstellar command." "understood" said Sam "onscreen" there was a flash of light on one of the holoscreens in front of Sam displaying a video link with Nova. "Sam I understand that you are on-board your ship and are inbound to border world 21-211-23-32-14." Said Nova "what's your ETTT" "Sam" Said Sarah "our estimated time to target is 1 hour". "thank you Sarah" said Sam "so yeah you might want to source your backup from an nearer source as it will be a while till we can arrive" "solid copy" said Nova "I will contact Katia and Villiam and see if they are close enough to assist." "personally I would ask Ruby" said Sam "as she has a battleyard" "thanks anyway" said Nova "I will look into both" "ok" said Sam "and remember we will be with you in about 1 hour" "understood" said Nova "fly safe" then as suddenly as the video link started it stopped and the holographic viewscreen returned to its default view of ahead of the ship a view that was currently comprised of compressed space-time. "you can get some rest if you want captain Eden" said Sarah "as I can take the bridge until we arrive." "alright then" said Sam "just let me know about 5 minutes before we arrive so I can be on the bridge before we exit torsion." "yes sir" said Sarah "you will be informed" "thanks" said Sam as she got up to head back to her apartment "Sarah you have the bridge." "solid copy" said Sarah "my bridge"

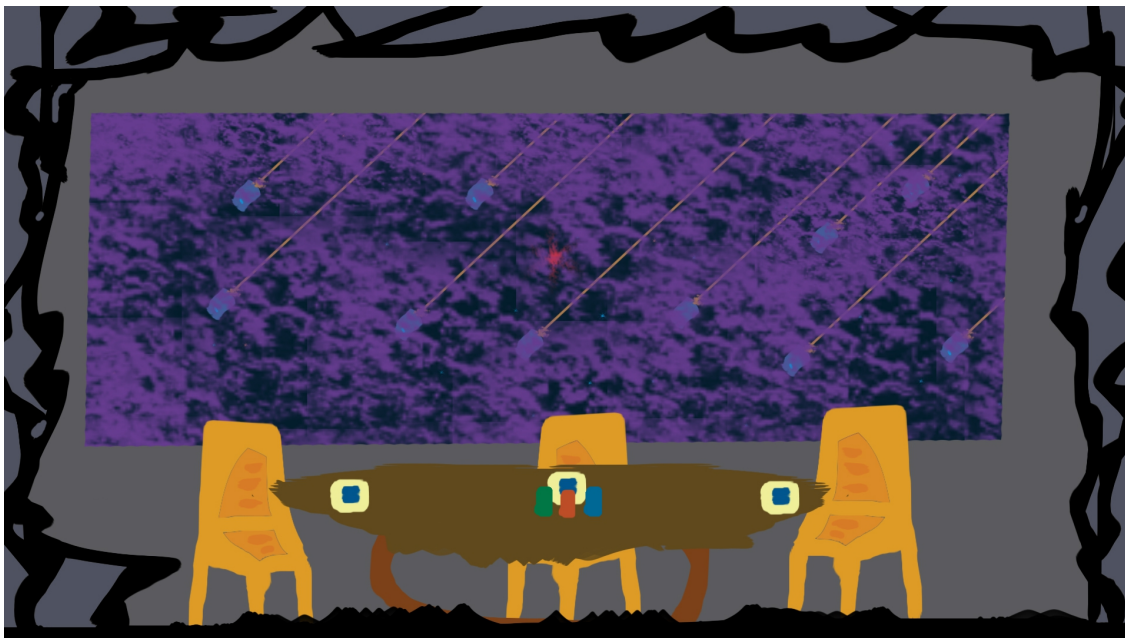
(triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
lws system

Trei 111

Interstellar command)

Nova was staring intensely in the main control room at the huge holographic that was visible out the window map of the known universe. "Nova a huge scourge fleet just arrived in orbit around border world 21-211-23-32-14." Said Cray "we need to send backup" "Copy" said Nova "contact all available combat ships in Perseus , Cassiopeia, Lacerta , Andromeda , Pegasus ,Pisces, triangulum and Aries." "copy that" said Cray "hailing all combat ships in those regions" "also" said Nova "contact Katia Villiam and Ruby and tell them to move to assist." "right" said Cray "doing it."

(space station quii 14
Frontier)



Katia Villiam and Karros were sitting down for supper in a station. As they were next to a window they were looking out the window and could see a large verity of ships all flying about not too far from the station in the distance they could see an incredible view of the frontier as well as the barrier. "you know this food is really good" said Katia "and this views amazing" "yeah as I said" said Karros "I love this place" "Katia" said Villiam "when we are done here we have to go as we are needed in orbit around border world 21-211-23-32-14." "let me guess" said Karros "a spacefight" "yeah" said Katia "should be interesting" "hey" said Karros "as I haven't been in one of those in years can I join you." "yeah ok" said Katia "I don't see why not." "great" said Karros "I won't disappoint." "well its settled then" said Villiam "once we are done with supper we will move to assist." "ok then " said Katia "sound good to me"

(chapter 7)
(prepare for deployment)

(triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
lws system
lwrii 122
27-4A captains quarters)

“incoming transmission” said Ruby’s first officer. “it’s from Interstellar command”
“ok” said Ruby “onscreen” “ok then” said Ruby’s first officer tapping a few commands on her holo tablet to get the transmission on the bridge’s main viewscreen. “Ruby you are being deployed to border world 21-211-23-32-14 to cover the civilian extraction.” said Cray “reinforcements have been called due to a large scourge fleet entering orbit just minutes ago.” “ok I am on the way” said Ruby “is there anything else I should know” “yes” said Cray “although fleets have been deployed from Perseus , Cassiopeia, Lacerta , Andromeda , Pegasus ,Pisces, triangulum and Aries there might still be ships around when you land on grid. ; so be very careful.” “copy that” said Ruby turning to face her first officer “right then disengage communications with interstellar command then get us into torsion.” “understood” said Ruby’s first officer “communications link with Interstellar command is offline aligning to border world 21-211-23-32-14 for immediate torsion : ok viewscreen has been set to actual view of space. ; initiating torsion.”

(Tri circle
“38-9C”
Sam ,Jack and Gemini’s apartment)

Gemini was sitting with Jack on the sofa and were watching Sam as she worked on the holo projection surface in the middle of the room. “what are you doing” said Jack watching Sam tapping away. “we don’t arrive for another hour.” “I am working on a briefing” said Sam dragging one of the holograms slightly upwards to get to one underneath it “you know to let the ground teams know what they need to do.” “oh ok” said Jack “that makes sense” “Gemini” said Jack “you ok” “yeah” said Gemini “I am fine” then suddenly there was an announcement over the ship intercom. “Captain Eden please report to the CIC” said Sarah “Captain Eden to the CIC immediately.” “sorry” said Sam tapping the save button “I got to go” “no problem” said Jack as Sam began to walk out the door. “I will look after Gemini” “I can look after myself” said Gemini “however I think I will stay here as I like the sofa” “ok” said Sam as she stepped through the door “I will see you in a bit.”

Then Sam stepped through the door and onto the bridge. “captain on deck” announced Sarah. And everyone on the bridge stood up and saluted Sam. “Carry on” said Sam and everyone went back to tapping away at their various holographic stations. Sarah was right beside her and after looking at her holo tablet announced that the fastest way to the CIC was very close to them and so Sam should follow her. “so” said Sam “what’s happening” “we just received new tactical information regarding the scourge” said Sarah “and I thought you might want to take a look” “and the CIC is where exactly” said Sam “I mean I don’t want to walk all the way down to the other end of the ship.” “nah” said Sarah “it’s just up here” and sure enough a few seconds later Sarah led Sam through a door in the right of the corridor and into a room filled with holo projection surfaces , holoscreens and absolutely filled with people. “captain on deck” announced Sarah. And everyone in the CIC stood up and saluted Sam. “Carry on” said Sam and everyone went back to tapping away at their various holographic stations.

“what’s happening” said Sam to one of the officers on the CIC. “we received a transmission from one of Titan Core’s main research labs and they sent this.” said the officer “it explains the link the scourge have with each other and also explains how to track it all the way back to its origin.” “I am guessing” said Sam “that you mean one of their Hive Worlds or Shard Worlds” “well said the officer “it’s a way to trace the signal to one of those yes” “ok then” said Sam “onscreen” and with that the officer through up a complex 3D holographic model of the universe on his screen. “so” said the officer “we are here : and we know that the hive and shard worlds must be somewhere in our universe around here : so if we capture a scourge life form we would be able to use an Affinity device to trace the location to the hive world and from there we could find a way to interface with the hive world’s main data transfer systems and locate the Shard world” “which would allow us to” said Sam “launch an assault on the scourge that would eliminate the scourge threat near our space.” “exactly” said the officer “I mean they wouldn’t be killed off as a species but they would no longer be a threat to us.” “very good” said Sam and she then turned to face Sarah “take me back to my apartment please” “yes sir” said Sarah “this way”

A few minutes later Sam arrived back in her, Jack’s and Gemini’s Apartment.

“so said Jack from the sofa “how was it” “it was ok said Sam joining Jack and Gemini on the sofa. “I mean it was an interesting talk about the way to remove the scourge as a threat without killing them off completely.” “well” said Gemini “I definitely support that” “yep” said Jack “not killing off random species just because they attacked us first is a good thing: I mean we have done it enough in the past” “agreed “ said Sam getting up off the sofa and going back over to the holo projection surface to finish the work she had to get done “agreed”

(Andromeda
Rock Military Installation
27-4A Bridge)

Meanwhile the 27-4A was docked in one of the massive hanger bays inside of Rock Military Installation on the Battleyard level. On this level there were Battleyards docked as far as the eye could see. On the bridge ruby was planning how she would reach the border world 21-211-23-32-14. She was using a holo projection surface and with the help of her first officer had almost come up with her plan on how to get to the border world To help with the civilian evacuation. “you see” said Ruby “there have been scourge sightings all around this region over the week: so I say we go through the Cassiopeia region ” “yeah” said Ruby’s first officer “that works as we can then set the correct heading and then we will be in a position to assist the human forces forming up on border world 21-211-23-32-14.” “Right then” said Ruby “when will we be ready for undock.” “it won’t be much longer” said Ruby’s first officer “I would expect it to be another 5 minutes at the most.” “ok” said Ruby “well when we are done in the dock take us to the objective.” “yes sir” said Ruby’s first officer “I will notify you when we get there.” “thanks” said Ruby and she went back to the captain’s chair and sat down.

(chapter 8)
(fleet fight)

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Eternal War)

“right” said Katia as the ship decelerated “we have just entered high orbit above the target. :where is

the scourge.” “I don’t know” said Villiam “I will run some scans with our sensors and see if I can find out where they are hiding” “I am worried” said Katia “this isn’t at all like the scourge” “I agree” said Villiam I feel an ambush coming “ “same” said Katia “the question is from where.”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“38-9C”
bridge)

Sam was on the bridge having been told by Sarah that they were about to arrive 5 minutes beforehand. Then suddenly there was a huge lurch and the “38-9C” left torsion. As Sam was looking at all the holographic displays that surrounded her she noticed something odd. “Sarah can you run another scan” said Sam “as I am not seeing the scourge fleet on the holo displays.” “yes sir” said Sarah “but I believe the scourge may be holding off due to the fact that we are forming up on the dark side of the planet :so that hides us from sight and the plasma in this dust cloud is jamming both our long range scanners and the scourges. “so where does that put them” asked Sam looking back over to Sarah. “somewhere close sir” said Sarah “probably the other side of the planet :which conveniently was evacuated first.” “ok then” said Sam “tell our heavy gunships to get themselves groundside and get assisting the evacuation effort.” “and the fleet docked with this ship sir” said Sarah “what should they do” “easy” said Sam “get them in swarm formation around us” “understood sir” said Sarah as she tapped the orders into her tablet.

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“27-4A”
bridge)

“right we have arrived” said Ruby’s first officer following ruby onto the bridge. “and are in orbit around Border world 21-211-23-32-14.” “and the scourge” asked Ruby “where are they.” “there location is currently unknown : as they didn’t show up on the first scan ” said Ruby’s first officer. “I will run another scan” “ah screw that” said Ruby “sapphire and Amethyst are still on the frontier right” “yes sir” said Ruby’s first officer “I will hail them immediately” “thanks” said Ruby “and don’t worry my sister will know what to do”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“38-9C”
bridge)

“our fleet has entered swarm formation sir” said Sarah “I have told them to hold in swarm formation.” “understood” said Sam very good”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“December ”
bridge)

“right” said Sapphire “what’s going on” “we have entered orbit over the target world” said the tactical officer “after multiple scans we have managed to negate the sensor distortion caused by the plasma in the dust cloud and found that the scourge seem to be holding position on the far side of the planet.” “are they moving” asked Sapphire “or are they waiting for something.

“hard to tell but i would say they are probably waiting for something” said the tactical officer “I would say that they are probably waiting for a clear line of sight on our fleet.” “Well so are we” said Sapphire “helm commence main engine burn to take us around to the far side of the planet” “understood” said the helm officer “moving to engage the scourge fleet” “right” said Sapphire “can you all ships except for the fleets led by Sam and Amethyst move to engage the scourge fleet” “yes sir” said the tactical officer “on it”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“38-9C”
bridge)

“Captain Eden” said Sarah “part of the fleet has broken off from our formation and is moving to engage the scourge before they get in firing range of the civilian evacuation” “thanks Sarah” said Sam “so how long until we have all the civilians on board” the firsts dropships are leaving now” said Sarah “so I wouldn’t think it would long.” “ok” said Sam “cool” “cool” asked Sarah crossing her arms and looking puzzled at Sam. “that’s not very professional is it” “look said Sam “its hard to be 100% professional the entire time ok.” “fine” said Sarah “but it does mean I might lower y standards as well” “what” said Sam “how would that help us” “look” said Sarah “I am joking ok” “well” said Sam “it didn’t look like it” “ok” said Sarah “noted” “right then” said Sam “I am off to find something to eat : I will be back in a bit.” “Ok then” said Sarah “I will let you know if anything interesting happens.” “ok then” said Sam “Sarah you have the bridge” “no problem” replied Sarah “see you later then.” And with that Sam walked off the bridge and into her apartment.

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“38-9C”
Sam , Jack and Gemini’s apartment)

“you ok” said Jack “going well yeah” “oh that” said Sam “yeah the evacuations going well” “not leaving anyone behind are you” asked Gemini “I mean that would be mean” “yeah its ok” said Sam “Sarah has been making sure that all the civilians are being extracted off the planet to our ship” “that’s good” said Gemini crossing her arms “can we get something to eat.” “yeah sure” said Sam “I will go and cook something.” “Sam” said Gemini. “can we have onion soup” “yeah” yelled Sam from the kitchen “sure”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“December ”
bridge)

“captain” said the tactical officer “we reached the far side of the planet.” “and the scourge” said Sapphire “are we in range of them.” Yes sir” said the tactical officer “we are in range and ready to engage.” Copy that” said Sapphire “all ships that are moving to engage the scourge : proceed to engage.” “yes sir” said the tactical officer tapping the scourge ships that were being displayed on the holographic console in front of him. The words target locked appeared in red text floating above his console. He then tapped the engage targets button on his console. (and as the December was a fleet Command ship all the ships under its command were ready to fire the moment that the button was tapped.)

Once the button was tapped Instantly sapphires fleet of 102 dreadnoughts began engaging the scourge fleet with thousands of sustained shots form state of the art Heavy ION cannons. As the

scourge fleet was at the limits of the human ships ranges the Heavy ION cannons were only halfway towards the scourge fleet by the time the scourge had begun returning fire with Acid and spines.

“Captain” said the tactical officer “the scourge have returned fire.” “ok” said Sapphire “in that case online our armour repair systems.” “yes sir” said the tactical officer. “bringing tank online.”

Then suddenly the scourge weapons hit the December and with a massive splash of acid This massively damaged A huge section of the December’s armour melting a hole 3000 meters wide an 5000 metres deep. “captain” said the tactical officer “the scourge fleet has primed the December : and our armour has dropped to 0%” then suddenly there was a huge bang as the spines impacted the damaged section of armour and it sheared off and began floating out into space. “Captain hull breach on deck 12113” said the tactical officer. “we are losing atmosphere into space” “right close all the bulkheads within 3000 meters of the breach” said Sapphire “and get Sam’s Battleyard here to assist”

(chapter 9) (strategy)

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“38-9C”

Sam , Jack and Gemini’s apartment)

“captain Eden please report to the bridge” said Sarah over the intercom. “right I have got to go” said Sam Putting down the knife she was holding before running onto the bridge.” Once she had reached the captain’s chair Sarah began to brief her. “the December is in Structure and it is tanking most of the incoming damage” said Sarah “however the armour has been compromised and they are losing atmosphere into the depths of space.” “understood” said Sam “get us into a position to assist.” “yes Sir” said Sarah tapping the commands into her tablet. After Waiting 5 seconds she got a message back from the hanger stating that all civilians were on board. “commencing emergency torsion to December”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“December ”
bridge)

“captain” said the Tactical officer “I have good news engineering has manger to stabilise out tank at 37% : and the “38-9C” is moving to assist.” “right now then” said Sapphire “start focusing fire on the larger scourge ships this strategy of letting the fleet shoot what they want doesn’t seem to be working :and can we get some Intel on there fleets composition ” “understood sir” said the tactical officer “the fleet awaits your target : and the reason we have no Intel on them is because our sensors getting interference from the plasma located in the nearby dust cloud.” “ok then” said Sapphire “lets do this the old fashioned way : give me a list of all the scourge ships.” “done sir” said the tactical officer as he displayed a list of all the scourge ships onto the holo display in front of sapphire. “right then” said Sapphire “Scourge vessel 227-X550 is prime” then the second Sapphire said prime thousands of bright blue Heavy ION cannons fired at the scourge vessel and it exploded in a cloud of orange blood and shards of dark red crystal.

“now that’s the way its done” said Sapphire “right next target is 317-S782: engage”

And with that a second wave of Heavy ION cannons fired completely obliterating the scourge ship Just as Sam arrived into the battlespace in her Battleyard and opened fire with a huge barrage of Singularity Missiles. The missiles connected and the resulting Singularities tore apart over half the scourge fleet.

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“38-9C”

Bridge)

“Captain” said Sarah “half the scourge ships have been destroyed” “understood” said Sam “take out the rest of them.” “yes sir” said Sarah tapping commands into her tablet “engaging.” And with that a second huge barrage of missiles was launched out of there launchers on the side of the ship in a cloud of white smoke straight at the scourge were at the scourge fleet. Then suddenly a scourge fleet of 100,000 Hypercaptial class vessels came out of torsion and started firing huge amounts of acid and spines at the human fleets. “captain” yelled Sarah “the scourge are landing there hypercaps : they now have just over 40 times as many Hypercaptial class vessels we do : recommend escalation” “right then ” said Sam “Sarah contact Sapphire and tell her to get more reinforcements.” “Captain” said Sarah “fleets are still inbound from Perseus, Cassiopeia, Lacerta , Andromeda , Pegasus ,Pisces, triangulum and Aries. :still I will contact Sapphire and see if she can get some ships diverted form the frontier.” “understood” said Sam “keep firing” “yes sir” said Sarah “engaging” and with that Sarah tapped an icon on her tablet which brought up a targeting screen showing the scourge ships in front of the “38-9C” she then tapped on the lead vessel in the scourge fleet that had just arrived and tapped again on another ship slightly to the side of it. Then instantly a huge Bright blue Beam came shooting out of one of the “38-9C’s” Heavy ION cannons and just seconds later slammed into a scourge carrier melting through its entire left time.

(frontier

Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“December ”

bridge)

“good news captain” said the tactical officer “our reinforcing fleets are about to land” “good” said sapphire “and that carrier is prime.” “copy” said the tactical officer tapping an icon on his holo console. Which sent a salvo of missiles along with 1000 bright blue beams from the ships heavy ion cannons straight the scourge fleet. Then suddenly the reinforcements arrived right in front of the weapons fired by the December and as a result the weapons impacted into the shields of a Fire carrier arriving on grid from Cassiopeia. But the damage was repaired just seconds later. Just as the Eternal War came out of the Decembers torsion Bubble right beside the December.

(frontier

Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

Eternal War)

“so” said Katia “what did we miss” “nothing much” said Sapphire “just pick a target and start shooting.” “yeah yeah whatever” said Katia tapping some commands into the ships weapons console. “I got this” just seconds later the Eternal War’s 2 side mounded triple barrelled Heavy ION cannons. Fired sending 6 bright blue beams straight towards the scourge fleet. The beams impacted

the lead scourge ship just as was charging its main acid weapon and as a result the ship was melted by its own acid. Leaving hundreds of pieces of corroded debris floating in space where the ship was just seconds before.

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"December "
bridge)

"captain" said the tactical officer "the scourge are launching transport craft" "where are they headed" said Sapphire pointing at a nearby holo projection surface. "the southern hemisphere sir" said the tactical officer. "they are headed to grid 227-776-333-224-581" "yeah but why would they be interested in that area" said Sapphire "it's just grassland :unless : science conduct a deep surface scan on that grid." "yes sir" said the science officer as she began tapping away on her console for a few seconds before saying. "right got something : some kind of research facility in a cave system just 217 meters below the surface." "copy that" said Sapphire "tell the 38-9C to get boots on the ground." "yes sir" said the tactical officer "also should I tell a support ship to repair our armour" "yeah" said Sapphire crossing her arms after brushing her hair out of her eyes. "please"

(chapter 10)
(boots on the ground)

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"captain we have been ordered to get boots on the ground by sapphire" said Sarah just as a huge blob of acid came flying past the window only to get vaporised as it crossed the path of a firing Heavy ION Cannon on the December which then proceed to impact the front of a scourge ship slicing it through the middle. "right then" said Sam "Sarah could you show me how to get to the drop pod bays on this ship then take the bridge." "yes sir" said Sarah as a huge bang reverberated throughout the ship as the "38-9C" fired another salvo of Singularity Missiles. "this way." As they walked past the apartment Sam stuck her head through the door and said. "Sapphire says we need to get boots on the ground : you coming" "yeah" said Jack walking over to Sam from the kitchen. "was just cooking but that can wait." "cool" Said Sam "and Gemini : you coming" "yeah" said Gemini getting up off the sofa "I am" and with that they walked out of the apartment and to the back of the bridge where behind a bulkhead was a gravimetric acceleration tube. "right" said Sarah "as I will need to be on the bridge for the fight you will have to take it from here." "no problem" said Sam "and remember not to scratch the armour on this ship" "err right " said Sarah "you do know we are armour tanked don't you" "yeah" said Sam jokingly "I am just playing with you" and with that Sam stepped into the gravimetric acceleration tube closely followed by Jack and Gemini a few seconds later.

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

"38-9C"

Drop Pod Bay 151-C)

There was 1000 human troops in the drop pod bay and Sam decided to brief them on the situation before sorting her, Jack and Gemini out with their gear. "ok everyone listen up" said Sam "the scourge going to ground so we are being sent in to stop them before they can reach their target. : your job will be to defend the landing zone until we get back from the facility. : right then dismissed" "right" said Jack turning to walk into the ready room "let's get our gear" "yeah" said Sam "lets go" and with that Sam along with Gemini into the ready room.

Once they were all in the ready room they moved to stand on the platform in the middle of the room. "right" said a technician who was on a desk at the side of the room. "have you ever used one of these gear equipping platforms before." "yeah once" said Jack "but that was ages ago : and I hated it" "really" said Sam looking at Jack with her arms crossed. "anyway you might want to explain it" "ok then" said the technician "right so what you have to do is to stand completely still and I will vaporise your gear onto you." "so is that like the armour and weapons too" said Gemini "cool" "right" said the technician "get ready" and with that Sam, Jack and Gemini got into a neutral standing position and then suddenly there was a huge bang and the room was filled with a cloud of orange mist. They however felt heavier and once the mist had dissipated they saw that they were all wearing all of their gear.

"ok" said Sam doing a pointing gesture towards the platform. "now that was cool" "yeah" admitted Jack "that was pretty awesome" "I guess it's go time then" said Gemini walking out of the door and onto the drop pod bay. "Gemini" yelled Sam and ran out the door. "yeah" said Jack to himself "she is a bit overprotective." After arriving on the drop pod bay Jack walked over to Sam and Gemini. "ah Jack" said Sam giving him a hug "you're here : now let's get to our drop pod" "ok" said Jack "lead the way" Sam led them down on row of drop pods then turned left and lead them down another row and after a few seconds they arrived at their drop pod and walked inside and sat down in the pods acceleration seats. "Sarah" said Sam as she tapped a button on the holographic planning table in the middle of the drop pod which closed the door with a loud bang. "ready" "copy that" said Sarah "we are still under heavy fire from the fleet. : but we should be over the target in under a minute." "thanks" for the update said Sam tapping another button to switch power over to the pods internal power supply. Before pulling down the top half of the acceleration seat which automatically locked itself into place. Seconds later Jack and Gemini did the same. Then suddenly there was a huge bang followed by a groan from the 38-9C superstructure as a huge blob of acid impacted the 38-9C armour. "Captain Eden" said Sarah "be advised we are over the target and initiating deployment." Then a countdown appeared above the pods holographic planning table that read launching in 10 seconds in red writing. "so Gemini" said Sam as another huge bang reverberated throughout the ship as the "38-9C" fired another salvo of Singularity Missiles. "you ever been in a drop pod before." "no" said Gemini "are they good" "yep" said Sam "hold on" Then suddenly the magnetic clamps on the sides of the drop pod were disengaged and the drop pods main engine fired. This pushed Sam Jack and Gemini up against the back of the pods acceleration seats. Above the holographic planning table the red text had changed to a blue text that read in transit. "Captain Eden" said Sarah as the drop pods cleared the 38-9C and the gravity of the 38-9C was replaced with the inertia of the drop pod. "the scourge are commencing their de orbit burn and will be landing on the planet's surface shortly. :you must reach the research facility before the scourge." "ok" said Gemini "this is quite exciting." "right" said Sam over the transcom to all the drop pods. "once we get boots on the ground we are going to secure the research facility

and activate the surrounding ASSC cannons." "something feels wrong" said Jack "can't tell if it's about the scourge fleet or the research facility" "or both" pointed out Sam "we will need to be carefull." Just then the 38-9C fired another salvo of Singularity Missiles. Which flew off and connected with one of the lead scourge ships. As the drop pods entered the planet's atmosphere there was another huge explosion of blood and crystal as another massive scourge ship a carrier exploded overhead sending a flash of light across the drop pods armour. "right" said Sam looking at the holographic planning table. "it looks like we are going to land before the scourge :still we will need to move fast once we are on the ground otherwise that advantage will be useless." "agreed" said Jack "Gemini once we land stay right next to us all the time we are on this planet." "fine" said Gemini clearly annoyed "I shall"

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"December "
bridge)

"captain" said the tactical officer "the fleet from Cassiopeia is currently tanking the whole scourge fleet : still I recommend we try and get some of the scourge fleet to shoot at us so a to split the incoming damage." "I don't think that would be a good idea" said Sapphire "as we went into structure last time we ended up tanking there fleet." "fair point" said the tactical officer "I was kinda thinking that to" "hey" said Sapphire "that scourge destroyer is making trying to extract :fire some shots at it see if you can destroy it" "yes sir" said the tactical officer tapping some commands into his console which sent 1000 bright blue beams from the Decembers Heavy ION Cannons towards the destroyer completely destroying it.

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Eternal War)

"Katia" said Villiam over the ships transcom "have you seen Karros" "yeah" replied Katia over the ships transcom "he is hanging about in the hanger : I think he is trying to fix the rubbish job that is the wiring in there" "oh ok" said Villiam over the ships transcom "I guess that's usefull then" "probably" said Katia over the ships transcom as she fired another round of 6 Heavy ION cannon shots at a scourge fighter that was coming straight towards them causing it to explode into a cloud of blood and crystal.

(chapter 11)
(surface contact)

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
High Atmosphere
Drop Pod 67-48-B)

"well" said Sam "we are pretty close now" "yeah" said Jack looking at the text above the holographic planning table that had switched to show time to ground contact. "only 45 seconds left" "oh yeah something I forgot to mention" said Sam looking at Gemini "when we land there will a pretty massive bump : well in terms of inertia" "yeah" said Jack "that tends to happen when you decelerate instantly form 9000 meters a second to stationary in 9 seconds" "yeah" Said Sam "I agree its never comfortable the first time you do it." "talking of doing it" said Jack looking at the

text above the holographic planning table which now read 11 seconds to impact before switching to initiating deceleration burn. And suddenly the drop pod began to shake violently as the retro engines worked to slow them down. "there's the deceleration burn" said Sam "and brace for impact" the text above the holographic planning table changed to the word impact. And the drop pod slammed into the grasslands of Border world 21-211-23-32-14 with such force that it created a crater that was 15 meters wide, 3 meters deep and covered in large cracks. This would of course make great cover for when they would have to leave the drop pod. "ok" said Sam looking excited "we have landed" "right" said Jack tapping a button on the holographic planning table which would jettison the sides of the drop pod "then lets go" then suddenly the drop pods sides were blasted off using powerful electromagnets and embedded themselves in the side of the crater.

"and there we are" said Sam getting out of the acceleration seat "orbit to ground in under 90 seconds" "yeah but as awesome as they are" said Jack getting out of his acceleration seat "we still need to complete the mission." "right you are" said Sam "to the research facility" "give me a sec" said Gemini getting out of her acceleration seat "ok ready : lets go"

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"27-4A"
bridge)

"captain" said Ruby's first officer "part of the scourge fleet seems to be pulling back :do you want to stay here or brake of and engage the second group." "if the second group is moving to extract" said Ruby "then yes follow that fleet and destroy it." "copy that sir" said Ruby's first officer "moving to engage the second fleet." "situation update" said Sapphire over the fleets transcom "there is a second group of ships moving to engage the 38-9C : recommend available ships move to assist"

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Eternal War)

"hey Katia" said Karros "what's happening" "are you referring to the fact your trying to hit on me" said Katia "or the epic spacefight that's going down outside" "the spacefight of course" said Karros "was just down in the hanger fixing the wiring so I couldn't hear much over the noise of the engines." "oh ok" said Katia "well in that case you can get on the console beside me and help take over the left set of Heavy ION Cannons." "ok then" said Karros "will do"

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
grasslands
Drop Pod 67-48-B)

As Sam , Jack and Gemini were leaving the crater there was a massive noise above them as a scourge fighter flew towards them. Instantly Sam Pulled Her assault rifle off the magnetic clamp on her back and quickly placed it against her shoulder and began firing at the fighters head. The head being soft couldn't tank the damage inflicted by her assault rifle and as a result the fighters head exploded and the fighter crashed into a cliff vaporising it in a cloud of blood and crystal. "there" said Sam placing her assault rifle back onto the magnetic clamp on her back. "done" then suddenly

Sapphire opened up a transcom channel with Sam “Sam” said Sapphire “part of the scourge fleet has broken off and is headed towards the 38-9C. : the 27-4A is moving to assist but you might want to be quick with recovering whatever it is that the scourge are after” “solid copy” said Sam “we shouldn’t be long” “that’s good” said Sapphire “as the scourge are not going to wait”

Sam took the next few seconds to look around. The grasslands were pleasing to the eye there bright green colours nicely contrasted the light grey cliffs and the blackness of deep space over head where Sam could see the space fight raging on overhead. “Sam” said Jack “you ok” “yeah” said Sam looking around the grasslands for an entrance for the facility. “I’m good” “look Sam I hate to point this out” said Gemini pointing at a grand marble and granite entrance that was built into the a huge cliff “but isn’t that where we are going” “well spotted” said Sam “yeah that’s where we need to be” “ then let’s move” said Jack beginning to sprint towards the entrance closely followed by Sam and Gemini. “Captain Eden” said Sarah over the transcom “the 38-9C’s short range scanners are picking up a group of scourge ships 5000 meters to your north. :be careful” “thanks for the update” said Sam over the transcom “we will keep an eye out for them” another minute of running across the grassland passed before Sam spoke up. “Gemini” said Sam “can you sense the scourge presence yet” “for some reason I can’t” said Gemini “must be the plasma in the dust cloud. : looks like we will be relying on the 38-9C for positional information”

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“38-9C”

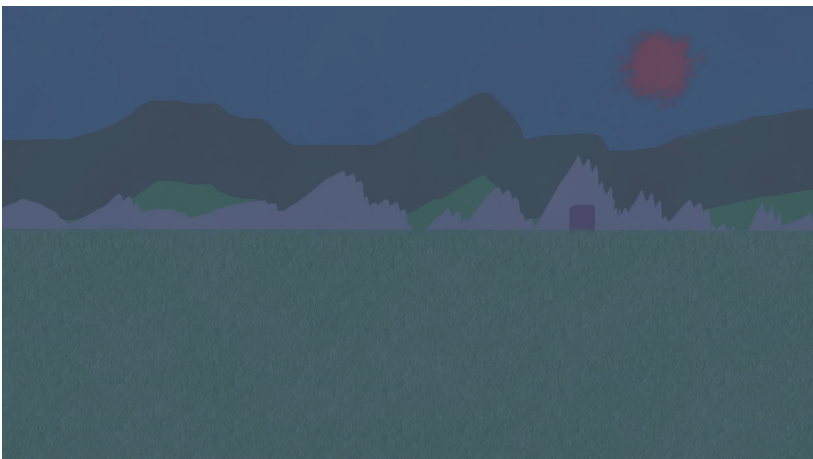
Bridge)

“Acting Captain” said the Tactical officer “Sam, Jack and Gemini are making good progress and are 25% of the way from the drop pod to the objective. : the bad news is we have a group of scourge that are heading straight towards our ship on bearing 280 vertical by 177 horizontal.” “understood” said Sarah “once they are in range you are clear to engage” “yes sir” said the tactical officer tapping commands into the nearby console. “understood”

(chapter 12) ***(space engagements)***

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

Grasslands)



“Sam” said running towards the entrance to the facility Gemini “I can feel that there are about 50 to 100 scourge ships landing just behind that cliff.” “” so said Sam running besides Jack and Gemini. “what’s there status” “closing” said Gemini as she slid under a fallen tree. “probably about 3000 meters from us at the most.” “right then” said Sam pulling her assault rifle off the magnetic clamp on her back as she vaulted over the fallen tree. “get ready : in times like these you can never be too careful” “so true” said Jack taking his singularity rifle off the magnetic clamp on his back as he dived over the fallen tree. “anyway let’s get to the facility before the scourge do.” “agreed” said Sam now running in the open again. “lets go”

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“38-9C”

Bridge)

“captain the scourge fleet is in weapon range” said “the tactical officer “ “engaging” “copy” said Sarah as there was a huge bang that reverberated throughout the ship as a huge salvo of Singularity Missiles.” “Sarah” said Ruby over the fleetcom as another 100,100 scourge fleets exited torsion. “my ship is moving to assist : also Sapphire has contacted Interstellar Command and requested they start Gateing ships onto the fight” “copy that” “said Sarah “keep me updated” then suddenly the scourge fleet near the 38-9C started firing acid and spines at the 38-9C. ““captain the scourge fleet is returning fire ” said “the tactical officer just as a huge blob of acid and spines slammed into the side of the 38-9C and in the process pushing the 38-9C’s tank into the negative. “we are receiving heavy damage and the tank will only hold for another 12 minutes.” “but ruby and the support from the gateships” said Sarah “are on the way right” “confirmed ” said tactical officer “but multiple scourge fleets are converging on this world so the damage being thrown around will to .” “very true” said Sarah “let’s stay alert”

(frontier

Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“December ”

bridge)

“captain” said the tactical officer “the scourge reinforcements keep landing :we need to extract.” “negative” said Sapphire “if they want this world :then so do we : get me Samantha priority transcom 1” “yes sir” said the tactical officer tapping a few buttons on a nearby holographic screen. “communications active sir : ready for relay”

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

Grasslands)

“Situation update” said Sapphire over the comms on priority transcom 1 “we have multiple scourge fleets converging on our fleets positions: you are going to have to be quick as we won’t be able to hold them in orbit forever.” “Understood” said Sam slightly out of breath due to the fact that they were still running across the grasslands “but at least we know whatever is in this facility the scourge really want.” “we may know that” said sapphire over the comms “but all this means is we now need to get in there first more than ever.” “Copy that” said Sam running across the grasslands “we are almost there.” “that’s a good thing to” said Gemini still running across the grasslands. “as I can feel the scourge are only 1000 meters from entering the facility.”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"December "
bridge)

"this is Interstellar command" said Cray over the comm's "gateships will be landing momentarily"
"understood" said Sapphire "thanks for your help" "no problem" said Cray "now good luck with
the fight" suddenly a fleet of 9 gateships came out of torsion with a series of huge explosions. And
within seconds they had linked up with each other. 9 core destroyers from the December's fleet
then began to beam power to them. And with after a few more seconds Eeriseis-897 reached full
speed and Then suddenly there was a huge flash of Yellow light then a huge flash of red light and
the quantum entanglement tunnel began to open.10 seconds after that when the tunnel was fully
formed.: huge numbers of Titan Core ships started coming through the gateships each one arriving
with a pulse of grey light and began to land on the fight. Opening fire on the scourge as they
arrived. "this is the 22th fleet" said one of the fleets captains "we are moving to engage the scourge
fleets near the 38-9C." "copy that" said Sapphire "good hunting."

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"acting captain" said the Comms officer "the 22th fleet has arrived and is moving to assist." "copy"
said Sarah "that's good news will help us hold our position in orbit and thus assist Sam" "this is
interstellar command" said Cray over the comm's "we are escalating this engagement to priory 1 :
stand by for heavy fire support." "that also means the civilians we have onboard" said Sarah "need
to be moved right" "that is correct" said Cray over the comms " "once the 22th fleet has cleared
the gateship" said Cray "all ships with civilians onboard must gate to Triangulum immediately"
"will that include our ship" asked Sarah "as we need to stay and support Sam" "understood
acquiring alternate extraction" said Cray over the comms "standby" whilst they were waiting the
battle raged on with massive amounts of fire hailing down on both the human and scourge fleets.
After a minute there was a huge bang that reverberated throughout the hull as another salvo of
singularity missiles were at the scourge fleet near the 38-9C. after just 3 seconds of flight-time The
missiles connected with the armour of some of the lead scourge ships and imploded with such
force that resulting Singularities tore apart a great number of ships from the Scourge fleet.

"this is the 22th fleet" said one of the fleets captains "we are in position to assist" "this is
interstellar command with a situation update" said Cray over the comms "the 22th fleet has a
damaged Battleyard that is in need of repairs the civlians can be put on that ship then gated."
"copy that" said Sarah "right vaporise the civlians on our ship onto that one before it gates"
"understood" said the science officer doing it now"

(chapter 13)
(the facility)

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Grasslands)

"Captain Eden" said Sarah as Sam Jack and Gemini came to a halt outside the facility's entrance
"the civilians are being gated back to Triangulum on a damaged Battleyard" "can I get a update on
the situation in space" said Sam as she began to cut her way through the huge facility's main door

using her mini ion cannon. “what’s happening” “understood Captain ” said Sarah “we have the main fight happening near the December that fleets tank is somewhat stable and we have another fleet engaging the 38-9C and the 22th fleet.: not to worry our tank is holding. And finally we have 9 gateships halfway between the two fights gateing more ships onto the fight.”

“thanks Sarah” said Sam as she finally got through the door “be advised we are about to go out of contact as this rock looks like it has a high plasma content and will probably jam our systems.”

“copy that” said Sarah “good luck at getting to the objective before the scourge” “thanks” said Sam as she stepped through the hole in the door and into the facility followed closely by Gemini and Jack. “right Gemini where are the scourge at” “not sure” said Gemini “I can feel them but they are still not to close. : we should still have time.” “right” said Sam “let’s find this thing” “what are we looking for” said Gemini “is it big” “know idea” said Sam “hopefully its close” “whatever it is we need to get to it before the scourge do” said Jack “lets move” “agreed” said Sam beginning to sprint down the corridor “lets go”

(frontier

Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

Eternal War)

Then suddenly the eternal war shot one of its triple barrel Heavy ION Cannons at the bridge of a scourge carrier completely destroying the bridge before penetrating through to the lower decks and into engineering which caused the ships reactor to go critical and the ship to explode in a cloud of blood and crystal. “wow good shot Karros said Katia “you just one shot that carrier.” “yeah” said Karros “that was pretty cool” then suddenly there was a series of huge explosions as Amethyst and her fleet came out of torsion. “sorry were late” said Amethyst “got held up by the ripples in torsion that are being generated by all the ships torsioning onto this fight. : anyway : this is Amethyst to all ships in my fleet you are weapons free. : and your primary’s will be the scourge hypecaptials” and with that Amethyst’s fleet started a massive barrage of thousands Heavy Ion cannon shots as well as shots from Orb Frigates. Which unlike the instantly hitting Heavy ION Cannons took time to reach their targets. The orb weapon is fires a orb which is a singularity in cased in plasma this means that it both burns the hull of the ship away and implodes the remains making it a very powerful weapon.

(frontier

Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“December ”

bridge)

“captain” said the Decembers AI Hydrojneiss “the Edens are in the facility and are moving to the objective” “cool” said Sapphire “let’s hope they get there before the scourge do.” “also captain” said Hydrojneiss “the fleet commanded by Amethyst is reporting its first few hypercaptial kills.” “good to know” said Sapphire “now lets get some more for our self.: get fireing at the closest Scourge ship” “confirmed” said Hydrojneiss “Engaging” and seconds later 1000 bright blue beams of energy shot out of the Decembers forward facing Heavy ION cannon before going flying across the battlespace and impacting a scourge dreadnought with such force that the ship instantly exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal.

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

Facility 24-1-5-B)

Sam Jack and Gemini were walking deeper into the facility getting closer to there objective all the time. Suddenly ahead of them on the right hand wall a strange sound could be heard. “Sam” said Jack stopping to listen to the sound “you hear that” “it’s the Scourge” said Gemini “I can feel them using there acid to melt through the rock straight into this facility.” “Are they close” asked Sam

staying quite still and looking at the wall. "or are they not interested in us" "they are literally 15 meters behind that wall" said Gemini "but still they seem to be traveling parallel to this corridor rather than trying to go through it" "then we follow them" said Sam taking her assault rifle off the magnetic clamp on her back. "lets go" "yeah" said Jack as he and Gemini equipped their weapons a dual plasma thrower for Gemini and a Singularity rifle for Jack. "lets go"

And with that they all began to run down the corridor that lead into the heart of the Facility. "what are we looking for" said Jack as they ran down the corridor "an Affinity device I think" Said Sam running along with them "I Remember Sarah or someone saying something about it a few hours ago" "so" asked Jack still running alongside Sam and Gemini. "were close right" "yes" said Gemini also running alongside them "I can feel the scourge getting closer to breaking through the wall" then suddenly they found it a device the size of a large frigate was sitting ahead of them in a huge open area 1000 meters ahead of them. "Scourge" yelled Gemini now running towards the device "coming through the wall to our right" and sure enough just a second later the scourge's acid could be seen seeping through the wall before it burst open flinging rock and pieces of wall into the air. And through the hole 5000 scourge lifeforms came rushing out and started heading towards Sam, Jack and Gemini.

"Jack and Gemini" yelled Sam "you are clear to engage" "copy engaging" said Jack and Gemini at the same time. And with that a huge firefight broke out between Sam, Jack and Gemini who had dived behind a meter high dividing wall and the scourge life forms. "well" said Sam as she fired a few shots from her assault rifle at the incoming scourge. Before ducking back into cover "you know what" "what" said Jack firing as he started to fire his singularity rifle. "do you mean" "what I was saying" said Sam who was still taking cover behind the wall to avoid a blob of acid. "is that I think we found the scourge" "you don't say" said Gemini firing two streams of plasma at the scourge from her dual plasma thrower. The plasma connected and both the two different groups of scourge exploded due to their blood getting superheated killing them in the process." The Scourge responded by firing even more acid as well as spines at Sam, Jack and Gemini got lucky and saw it coming which enabled them to dive into a new piece of cover just as the wall they were using as cover previously got destroyed in a shower of acid and spines leaving just a large corroded section of floor plating where they were just moments before.

"ok" said Sam as she crouched with her back against the new piece of cover. "that was close"

"you" said Jack out of breath and also crouching behind the cover. "you don't say."

Then suddenly another huge swarm of scourge melted their way through another section of the wall and began to rush towards them.

"we need to reach the affinity device" said Sam still crouching behind the cover "take Gemini and run right to it" "you sure" said Jack as he got up shot the singularity rifle over the cover and dived back into the cover "I mean we could go around"

"there's no time" said Sam still crouching with her back against the cover. "just go : I will cover you." "right" said Jack still crouching behind the cover "here goes nothing". And with that he and Gemini launched themselves out of the cover and went into a crouching run right towards the affinity device.

"right" thought Sam "let's do this" and with that Sam launched herself sideways into the air. The second she was airborne she began to fire her Assault rifle at the scourge. Whilst at the same time imploding the scourge with singularities which she was producing. 3 seconds later she landed right where she wanted to be in-between the entrance and the affinity device. The second after landing She placed her assault rifle on her back and pulled her two Acrcprthum sticks off the magnetic

clamps on her back and pushed in the bottoms of the sticks. The sticks sprung to life generating 2 pickaxe heads made of pure energy just as the scourge entered melee range with her.

“right” said Sam over the comms to Jack and Gemini “I got there attention now go get that data”
“not to worry” replied Jack over the comms “were on it”

“so” said Gemini who was somewhat out of breath “we are almost there right” “yep” said Jack dragging Gemini by the hand round a corner and into a room filled with thousands of dynamic hardware crystals that made up the affinity devices main computer system. “right were here : let’s get the data” “right” said Gemini placing her dual plasma throwers back onto their magnetic clamps on her back “on it” “yeah” said Jack also placing the singularity rifle onto its magnetic clamp before starting to explore the room. After a few minutes Gemini looked at Jack. “nice this computer system has a database that is full of details on scourge. : now all I need to find is the actual affinity data. : ah ha found it” said Gemini excitedly “it’s on this dynamic hardware crystals : I am extracting the data now” “how long” said Jack “will it take” “already done” said Gemini “let’s get back to Sam” suddenly there was a huge crash and Sam came smashing in to the room through the wall. “ok” said Sam jamming her Acrcprthum sticks into a nearby desk to stop herself “we might have a bit of a problem” “what happened” asked Jack “you ok” “yeah I am fine” said Sam “the scourge caved in the roof to try and stop me : but I managed to get into here just as it fell down” “so what’s our exit” said Jack “the roof” “nope” said Sam “it caved in it didn’t make a hole to the surface” “ah” said Jack “fair enough : so how do we get out” “well” said Sam nervously “there is a shaft that leads to the surface on the far side of the planet :its called a Freefall shaft and is used to move equipment that is too delicate to be vaporised between the two sides of the planet.” “Sam” said Jack “you didn’t sound too sure when you said that” “the thing is” said Sam “is that shaft is completely filled with scourge” “so” said Gemini “you mean like an infestation” “yes” said Sam “however it’s our only way out” “agreed” said Jack as he and Gemini equipped their weapons once again. “let’s move.”

And with that they ran into a maintenance access tunnel.

(chapter 14) ***(Freefall)***

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Facility 24-1-5-B)

“right” said Sam “the scourge infested freefall shaft should be just up ahead” and after a few more minutes they reached it. “wow” said Jack “that quite some drop” “yep” said Sam tuning around to face Gemini and Jack. “see you at the bottom” and with that Sam did a spectacular backflip and disappeared down the Freefall shaft. “right lets go” said Jack taking hold of Gemini’s hand. “and jump” and with that Jack and Gemini leaped off the platform and began falling down the shaft right behind Sam.”

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
“December ”
bridge)

“captain” said the tactical officer “Sam Jack and Gemini are still inside the Facility and are communications are offline due to the plasma in the surface rock on this world.”

“copy that” said Sapphire as the ship fired 1000 Heavy ION Cannons at a scourge carrier destroying

it in the process. "then we will hold in orbit for them" "copy" said the tactical officer "out tank is holding for the timebeing" "understood" said Sapphire "continue" "yes sir" said the tactical officer "on it"

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Freefall shaft 279-1)

"well" said Sam now falling at over 9000 mph "the good news is that we haven't encountered any scourge" "yet" replied Jack altering his position in relation to Sam so as to come up alongside her "there probably further down the shaft." "I can feel scourge lifeforms" said Gemini nervously moving herself even closer to Sam "there close" "Gemini" said Sam sounding concerned "how close are they." Suddenly a huge blob of acid shot up the shaft missing Sam by only 2 centimetres. "that close" said Gemini now falling right above Sam so as to be shielded from the scourge acid based weapons "advise we engage" "agreed" said Sam projecting a large 5-meter wide shield around herself, Gemini and Jack "clear to engage" and with that they began shooting at the scourge whilst falling down the shaft at over 9000 mph. Sam's shield like bubble of energy worked perfectly completely neutralising all the acid that the scourge were firing at them.

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"December "
bridge)

"captain" said the comms officer as the December fired another massive barrage of heavy ion cannons at the scourge fleet. : as the Ion beams connected the scourge ships they exploded in a cloud of crystal and blood due to not being able to take the damage. "Eve just got up and is now inbound to the fight" "well it's about time" said Sapphire. "we could use her help."

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Eternal War)

"Karros" said Katia "you can get more power out of the ION beams if you aim them better. :watch" and with that Katia tapped the holographic weapons console in front of her sending a ION beam right through a capita ships reactor. Completely destroying it in the process." "ok ok" said Karros watching amazed "that was a good shot."

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"acting captain" said the tactical officer just as the 38-9C took a huge acid impact to its armor destabilising the ships tank. "still no word from Sam : Eve is inbound : and our tank is destabilising" "understood" said Sarah " tell engineering to boost the flow of repair fluid and comms get a support ship to fire repair fluid at us to repair us." Almost immediately there was a huge amount tapping on the ships holographic consoles as the bridge crew carried out Sarah's orders."

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Freefall shaft 279-1)

As Sam , Jack and Gemini fell they fired a large volume of fire at the Scourge. One of the shots fired by Jack with a singularity rifle impacted with a plasma conduit on the side of the shaft and exploded with such force that it sent plasma and debris flying everywhere killing a few scourge in the process. "Sam" yelled Gemini as she fell whilst at the same time firing her plasma thrower at the scourge in the shaft. "I can feel that the scourge are entrenched up ahead and have blocked the shaft." "don't worry" yelled Sam firing her assault rifle at the scourge that were throwing themselves off the wall and straight at her. "I got this" and with that Sam sent out a huge pulse of Dark Energy which went shooting out of her in all directions vaporising any scourge life form it touched before ricocheting off the walls of the shaft and into the huge amount of scourge biomass that was blocking the shaft. "ok" said Sam who was out breath and completely exhausted and could barely keep herself falling in a straight trajectory. "the shaft is clear of scourge and were almost at the surface." They continued riding the shockwave from Sam's dark energy pulse until suddenly they were thrown out of the shaft and landed in a muddy swamp. Sam landed really hard and this collapsed the shield she was projecting and knocked her unconscious. "Sam" said Gemini in a panicked voice as she stood back up. "You ok" "she just landed a bit too hard" said Jack as he stowed his and Sam's weapons before picking up Sam. "she will be fine"

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

"38-9C"

Bridge)

"acting captain" said the comms officer "communications with surface team reestablished : the surface team is hailing us on priority transcom 1" "copy" said Sarah "on screen" "38-9C this is Jack Eden" said Jack using the comms channel priority transcom 1 "we are at the surface and require immediate extraction at 227.180.1.1.2 : priority 1" "copy that" said Sarah over priority transcom 1 whilst gesturing to the tactical officer "heavy gunships are inbound : hold position" "copy that" said Jack over the comms "we are holding position but be advised we have scourge inbound." "Understood" said Sarah replying over priority transcom 1 "extraction will be there in 90 seconds the Heavy gunship is de-orbiting now"

(chapter 15)

(Extraction)

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

Surface)

"the 38-9C is sending heavy gunships to pick us up" said Jack manoeuvring Sam onto his Right arm. Then with his left arm he reached around to his back and took the Singularity rifle off its magnetic clamp and began pointing it into the deeper areas of the swamp. "still I recommend that you have your weapon ready in case the scourge show up before then" "don't worry" said Gemini quickly turning around and firing her plasma thrower at a scourge that was trying jump her from behind. "I Got this." "Good, good" said Jack as her shot an overcharged singularity rifle round at a nearby group of scourge. the round detonated and the 5 scourge in the group were sucked into the Singularity. "won't be long now" "oh" exclaimed Gemini "you mean till backup arrives don't you" "yep" said Jack destroying a second group of scourge with a second overcharged shot "that's right"

"December to surface team" said Sapphire over the comms "do you have the data" "confirmed"

said Jack "we have the data and are awaiting extraction to take us back to the 38-9C." "be advised" said Sapphire "we need to get the data back to triangulum as soon as possible." "copy" said Jack "we will load the data onto a probe and fire it through the gateship on the way back to the 38-9C." "ok thanks" said Sapphire "oh and by the way you have to get the data through the gateship in one piece or its useless. : So yeah." "this is Delta 4-7" said the heavy gunship pilot over the comms "I am coming in for a landing" "understood" said Jack "the area around us is clear." "copy that" said the heavy gunship pilot over the comms. "commencing landing" suddenly there was a huge noise as a heavy gunship moved itself into position overhead. Trees and swamp water was thrown into the air due to the amount of downwash from the 16 huge propellers separated into 8 propeller wells and 6 large fusion engines on the edges of the heavy gunship. The rear engine pulsed a few more times and then the heavy gunship began to land using its fusion engines burning a large amount of the grass around the landing site as it came down for its landing. Finally the heavy gunship extended its landing gear before landing with a huge bang splitting the ground in the areas around its landing gear as it settled on the ground.

Suddenly there was a hiss of escaping air and the boarding ramp was lowered on to the ground. "come on" yelled the loading officer over the downwash who was inside the heavy gunship at the top of the ramp. "we don't have long" "right were coming" said Jack running up the ramp and into the heavy gunship. "Gemini" said Jack "come on" and with that Gemini sprinted up the ramp her hair being blown around by the downwash from the engines. "right were clear" yelled the loading officer to the pilot who was upstairs. as he and Gemini secured the top half of their acceleration seats just as Jack had finished moving Sam into an acceleration seat next to him then he sat down in his and pulled both the top halves down in one go. "your clear for take-off." And with that the loading officer tapped a code into the ramp control that caused the ramp to retract then lock into place using electromagnets. Then just as the ramp control switched form saying unpressurised to saying pressurised. And at that point there was a huge amount noise as the engines went to full power and the heavy gunship lifted itself into the air. Immediately following this landing gear made a loud noise as they were retracted and 10 seconds later the heavy gunship cleared the terrain ahead of them and the fusions engines rotated to face towards the back of the ship and along with the rear engine went to 100% throttle sending the ship shooting off towards orbit at such speed as to create 15 meter long plasma trails coming of the heavy gunship.

"35 seconds until orbital" said the pilot over the comms "trajectory alimnt with 38-9C confirmed : ETTT is 45 seconds" "thanks" said Jack before turning to the loading officer. "so hows the job" "its good" said the loading officer "I mean you get bad days when you have to organise the cargo that makes up most of our missions but then you get a VIP extraction like here and it's suddenly all worth it." "well" said Jack as the heavy gunship breached the atmosphere traveling at 90,000 mph "fair enough" "orbital achieved " said the pilot over the comms "proceeding to dock with the 38-9C" the final approach to the 38-9C was the hardest part of the flight as all around them there were thousands of shots form heavy ION Cannons ,Orb based weapons as well as swarms of missiles. And that's before even considering the Acid and Spines being fired by the scourge fleets. "hold on" said the pilot over the comms as he took the Heavy gunship into a dive in order to go under a disabled scourge carrier. After passing the carrier the Heavy gunship resumed its previous course having only lost a small amount of speed. "and were through"

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

"38-9C"

Bridge)

“acting captain” said the tactical officer “the heavy gunship Delta 4-7 has achieved orbital and is moving to our position for docking” “copy” said Sarah “and there ETTT” “20 seconds” said the tactical officer “they are completing their deceleration burn to take them into our orbit now.” “right I have to go and meet Sam , Jack and Gemini in the hanger bay” said Sarah “tactical as you are the next highest ranked you have the bridge. : you are to clear the remaining scourge ships then hold position till further orders” “solid copy” said the tactical officer “my bridge” and with that Sarah got up out of the captain’s chair and ran over to the bridges gravimetric acceleration tube and stepped in “hanger 2-1-7 deck 4-2-2 please ” said Sarah as the first junction of the tube was coming up and after seeing it take her the right way she muttered. “thanks.”

(Border world 21-211-23-32-14.

“38-9C”

hanger 2-1-7)

Sarah didn’t have to wait long as the Heavy gunship Delta 4-7 had already landed and decontaminated and was now being refuelled. Then down the extended ramp Gemini was walking down the ramp holding her helmet in her left hand and Jack’s helmet in her right hand with Sam’s balanced between the two. She was being closely followed by Jack who was carrying an unconscious Sam. “what happened” said Sarah running over to them. “is Sam ok” “yeah I think so” said Jack I think that It was the Dark Energy pulse that did it rather than the hard landing we had in the swamp.” “ah ok” said Sarah “still I think you should get her looked at” “that’s her decision” said Jack “ok” “fine” Said Sarah “have it your way” “it’s nice to see you to” said Gemini dumping all the helmets into her arms which she then placed on a nearby table. “also where’s the probe bay we need to send this data back to Triangulum” “no need” said the Heavy gunships pilot “I will fly it there myself” “thanks” said Sarah “that would be really helpful” then suddenly Sam stirred and then woke up. “woah” said Sam what happened “it was the Dark Energy pulse wasn’t it” “yep” said Jack “also can I put you down now” “err” said Sam trying to think of a good excuse to get carried around the ship. “ah got it : when sprained my wrist” “ok Sam” said Jack putting her back on her own two feet “because that excuse was rubbish I am not going to carry you.” “oh come on” said Sam “you know you want to” “look your heavy” said Jack “so I am going to have to say not right now” “well” said Sarah “when you are done messing around we need to get back to the bridge” “its ok” said Gemini throwing the data on a dynamic hardware crystal to the Heavy gunship pilot before looking sternly at Sam then Jack “were done”

“ok then” said Sarah as the pilot ran back up the heavy gunships ramp. “let’s go” and with that they began to walk towards the gravimetric acceleration tube. Their armour falling off them with each step they took before little robots would run across the ground to pick up the armour pieces then take them to the armoury. As they arrived at the gravimetric acceleration tube’s entrance their armour and almost completely fallen off and all that was left was the back plate which was removed by a hovering drone that removed the plate with the weapons still attached before flying off towards the armoury. Then suddenly with a huge roar of its engines the heavy gunship took off and flew out the hanger bay and into the depths of space. Diving out of sight just as another scourge ship this time a dreadnought was hit through the reactor by an amazingly well aimed shot from Karros on the Eternal War. The ship was instantly destroyed and detonated into a cloud of blood and crystal just as 1000 singularity missiles flew past the hanger entrance and impacted with a scourge carrier this imploded the middle of the ship and the resulting two halves drifted off into space throwing blood and crystal into space as they did so. “right” said Sarah “let’s get to the bridge” and with that Sarah , Sam , Gemini and Jack stepped into the gravimetric acceleration tube and took it all the way onto the bridge.

(chapter 16)
(faster than light fleetfight)

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
"December "
bridge)

"captain" said Hydrojneiss appearing above the bridges main holographic planning table "the gunship that was carrying the data has just gated into Triangulum and the data has now been received by Interstellar command" "thanks for the update" said Sapphire "now that that's out of the way lets clear this star system of scourge." "Gladly" said Hydrojneiss "engaging" and with that there was an explosion of noise as the December started firing all its weapon systems at the scourge. As the Heavy ION Cannons and various missiles from the December crossed the huge amount of deep space between the human and scourge fleets the round impacted the scourge fleet causing yet more of their ships to explode into clouds of blood and crystal.

(frontier
Border world 21-211-23-32-14.
Eternal War)

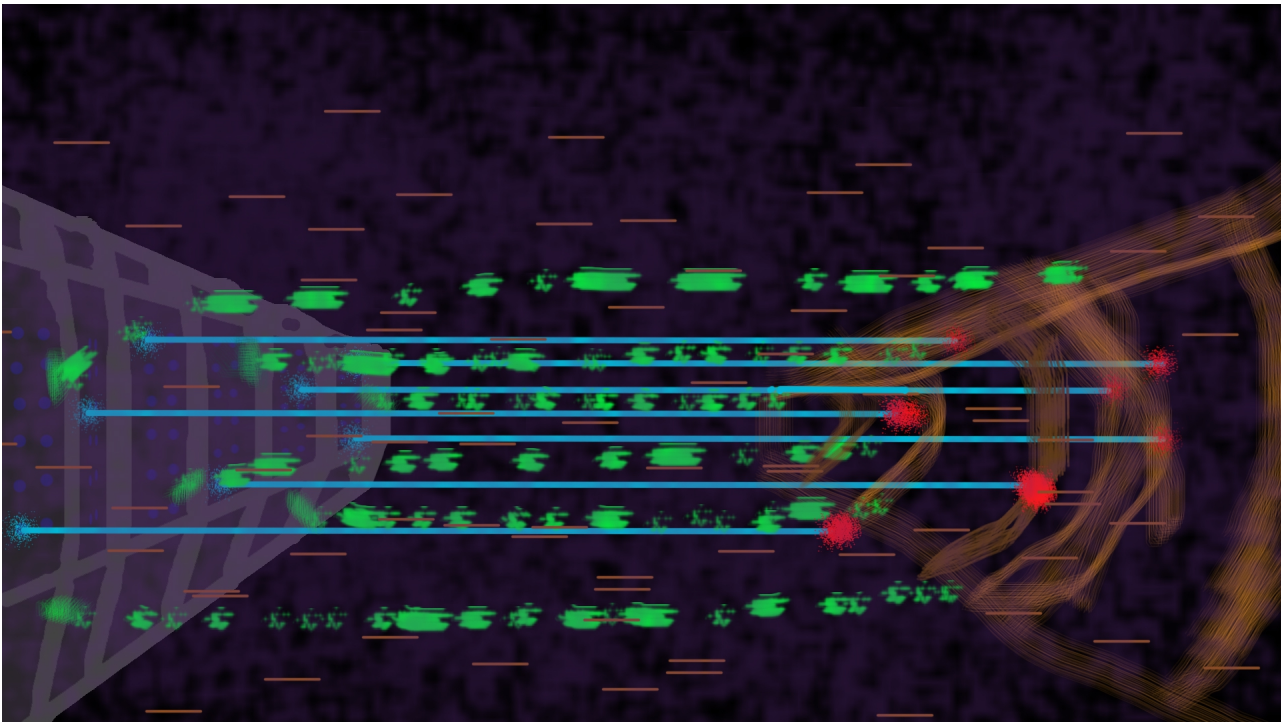
After a few minutes Katia began to notice that there were less scourge on the field than before. The suddenly the gateships brought the quantum entanglement tunnel offline and then entered torsion so as to head back to Triangulum. "I am not seeing any scourge reinforcements" said Katia "I think they might be about to retreat" "you might be right there said Villiam "as I am detecting a large amount of ripples in torsion" and sure enough about 5 minutes later the scourge started to go to torsion first one by one then in small groups and finally whole fleets started leaving the fight. "captain" said Hydrojneiss a clear sense of urgency in the AI's voice "the scourge are going to torsion : captain we just received the decoded affinity data back from the genetic computers located at Interstellar Command. : we can now track the scourge ships in torsion : I recommend following the scourge fleet incase they are heading to one of their Hive Worlds" " yeah I agree this is too got a chance to miss." Said Sapphire "this is Sapphire Ethereal to all ships go to torsion :we are going to follow the scourge right to one of their Hive Worlds" within seconds all the human ships were in torsion and in pursuit of the scourge fleet."

(Location unknown
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"captain on deck" said the Tactical officer standing up and saluting. "request permission to provide situation update" "at ease" said Sam walking over to the captains chair "and also go for the update" "yes sir" said the tactical officer "Captain we are in torsion and following the scourge" "where are they going" asked Sam "a Hive World" "that is highly likely" said the tactical officer "still if I was to comment sir I do believe we have taken them off guard" "how do you mean" asked Sam sitting down in the captain's chair "you mean they didn't know what the affinity device does." "no sir" said the Tactical officer "I don't think they did know what the affinity device is for and they definitely did not expect us to be able to follow them into torsion." "that" Said Sam "is good as it gives us the advantage of surprise"

(Location unknown

"December "
bridge)



"captain" said the tactical officer "the torsion field is unusually stable and as a result the scourge are moving to engage." "they can use weapons in torsion" said Sapphire as a huge blob of acid impacted with the December sending a shockwave so powerful that it could be felt on the bridge. As well as throughout the ship. "captain the scourge are aiming for our artificial gravity control system" said the tactical officer "if they take it offline we will lose gravity throughout the ship and the resulting power surge might blow some of our main power couplings." "well" said Sapphire "if you have to take the ship's artificial gravity control system offline to protect the Decembers systems you have my permission." "yes sir" said the tactical officer "I will contact Engineering if that time comes : in the mean time we have a battle to win." And with that the Decembers Tactical officer tapped a few commands into his holographic console. Suddenly as the fire button was tapped 1000's of Heavy ION Cannons sent their beams flying across open space. Just seconds later the beams impacted with a scourge frigate and it fell out of torsion and was disintegrated once it crossed the edge of the huge torsion field created by the fleetfight. "good shot" said Sapphire crossing her arms and looking in an interested sort of way towards the bridge's holographic planning table "but there's still more of them." "copy that" said the tactical officer "engaging" and with that a second huge salvo from the Decembers Heavy ION Cannons was released and just seconds later these beams connected with a scourge carrier's main reactor. This caused the ship to explode into a huge cloud of blood and crystal which then proceeded to disintegrate as it passed through the edge of the torsion field .

(Location unknown
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"Captain" said Sarah "the scourge are still maintaining formation ahead of us and we are moving into a firing range" "understood" said Sam looking somewhat confused "but this engagement is completely new to me." "same" said Jack "I was never trained for this" "wait a second" said Gemini "I can hear what the scourge are saying. :I can somehow connect to their Swarm mind."

“really” said Sam looking really excited causing her hair to change colour to a dark green. “can you get us any tactical information” “no” said Gemini “the amount of information the scourge are sending is more than I alone can process.” “right then” said Sam “ time for plan B. : you know the implants I got removed a while back well they were so useful that I had them put back in.” “but Sam” said Jack “you haven’t been near a UUDF or Aurora facility in years when did you get them put back in.” “oh a few nights ago when you two were asleep” said Sam “anyway Gemini follow me and Sarah you have the bridge.” And with that Sam and Gemini began walking over to the gravimetric acceleration tube located at the back of the bridge. “ so where are we going” asked Gemini looking confused “and why are we doing it now” “Gemini many years ago I was able to connect to an exodus computer system using my implants.” Said Sam “and although the new implants were manufactured by Titan Core and as a result they are genetic I reckon the basic idea should still work.” “yeah but that still doesn’t answer my question” said Gemini “where are we going” “the computer core” said Sam as she stepped into the gravimetric acceleration tube followed closely by Gemini. “so the computer core then” said Gemini “ok that’s creepy” “ it’s not any worse than how our own bodys work.” Said Sam “but yeah I can see why you might find the whole biological computer and ship circuitry thing weird or creepy.” “well that’s good said Gemini “because I do find it creepy : still I have the right kind of implants : so I guess we do it” “yeah” said Sam “any way I am going to send a message to Sapphire saying what we are about to attempt.” “wow that boosts my confidence” Said Gemini “totally makes me feel better about what we are about to do” suddenly the gravimetric acceleration tube came to an end and they stepped into the computer core. “captain” said one of the technicians “let me guess you have a plan” “I sure do” said Sam “Gemini says she can access the Scourge’s swarm mind but there’s too much information to be able to tell what they are doing : so I thought I could assist her and we could go in together.” “ok then” said the Technician “you share an affinity right.” “yep” said Sam “we do” “ok then” said the technician “follow me” and with that the technician showed them past massive amounts of genetic computers before finally arriving at the ships computer core. The core was made up of single huge brain which had been genetically engineered from the ground up to serve as the main computer on all Titan core vessels. “wow” said Sam “that its awesome” “yeah” said the Technician largest one ever grown.” “since were here” said Gemini “can we just get on with it” “wow” said the Technician “I like that can do attitude :follow me” and with that he took them both over to a row of five anti-gravity chambers on the back of the room. “right then” said the Technician coming to a stop next to the end two. “ok so each of you need to lie down in here and make you have to make sure that I can connect the cables. “ok” said Sam as the technician got the anti-gravity chambers prepared. “I am ready” “ok” said Gemini “I guess so am I” “right then” said the technician “lie down” and with that they both Lied down in the anti-gravity chambers and the technician then onlined them causing Sam and Gemini to float in mid-air. Then suddenly 2 bundles of 8 living cables began to emerge out of the anti-gravity chambers and began moving towards the implants on Sam and Gemini’s backs. “right” said the technician as he pushed the connect button on a holographic panel above him “this might feel a bit weird” as it turns out the feeling was very weird as the cables first slid into the implants in their backs before connecting to the inside of the implants where the top 6 were connected up to extensions that came down there spines from there brain stems whereas the bottom two connections contained the blood vessels needed to power the connection. “ok” said Sam feeling the ships blood flowing through her “this is pretty weird” “yep” said the technician “we will wait a bit before establishing the full connection so as to let you get used to the feeling.”

(Location unknown
"December"
Bridge)

"captain" said the comms officer "Sam and Gemini are about to connect with the scourge swarm mind" "ok" said Sapphire "that's pretty cool" "hey you know what else is pretty cool" said the tactical officer tapping a few buttons on his holo console which sent a swarm of singularity missiles towards the Scourge fleet before detonating and imploding over 100 ships. "that was" "ok ok" said Sapphire "your great too"

(Location unknown
"38-9C"
Computer core)

"ok" said the technician "the connections stable you two ready" "yep" said Sam and Gemini at the exact same time "ready" "right then" said the technician "establishing the connection in 15 seconds" this time Sam new what was coming and readied herself for the connection. "10 seconds" said the Technician "synchronising" Sam could feel the blood being circulated through her speed up to full speed."5 seconds" said the technician "greenlight on all systems" Sam could feel the blood change consistently as the chemical known to most as liquid awesome was added into her bloodstream this allowed her brain to slow down time by up to 900,000 times which gave her a huge amount of time to assess the tactical situation. Then suddenly the technician said "connection established" and her mind was catapulted backwards and she found herself falling down a large and completely black tunnel. Then as suddenly as it started it was over and she was flung out of the black tunnel and landed on her back in the middle of a living node with hundreds of thousands of blue and red and green living cables leading to other nodes. Then suddenly Gemini was thrown out of a blue Living cable and into the node. "ok ok" said Gemini covered in green goo "this is really disgusting" "wow is that what happens when you go through one of those living cables" said Sam "because that is pretty disgusting : still we have a job to do so let's go" "ok" said Gemini "I can feel the scourge swarm behind that red cable" "ok" said walking over to the Red living cable Sam "let's go" and with that she reached out to touch the cable but before she could it pulled her in. this took Sam by complete surprise and as a result she struggled to hold her breath as she shot along the living red cable which was full of a viscous red goo. Suddenly she was thrown out into another node and began to get up just as Gemini was thrown out of the cable and knocked Sam back to the floor of the node. "ok this" said Sam shakeing the goo out of her hair. "is quite disgusting" "agreed" said Gemini then Gemini ;looked around and saw that unlike the last node this one had scourge coming shooting out of one cable before diving into another. "hey look we made it" "yeah" said Sam looking around before crouching next to a cable "now to find out what they're planning" "and how are you going to do that" asked Gemini crossing her arms that caused goo to fly everywhere" we don't even speak their language" "well" said Sam "you know I don't think we need to" and with that she resumed her wait. Then suddenly the cable opened and as the scourge shot out Sam grabbed hold of it and they both crashed into the wall and slid down the goo onto the floor. Seeing this Gemini grabbed hold too and together they managed to pin it to the floor of the node. "you know said Sam "that was loads easier than in reality" "and" said Gemini "it was way more fun" "right here goes nothing" said Sam reaching around to her back and plugging a cable into the back before ramming the other end into the scourge's brain. "Wow this scourge is literally thinking about nothing" "that can't be right" said Gemini looking confused "as I can feel huge amounts of information passing through here" "wait a second" said Sam taking the cable out of the scourge brain and placing it in the red goo "we were surrounded by it the whole time :the scourge was just a lifeform connecting to this place like we are: the data itself is the goo" "wait a second" said Gemini getting up off the dead scourge "if the data's in the red goo then how do we get it back on to the

38-9C” “easy” said Sam as she pushed the red goo into a huge round blob “we form it into balls and then throw it back down the red living cable that we just came through.” “ok” said Gemini looking very confused “I guess lets go” “yep” said Sam forming some of the goo into a ball and throwing it down the living red cable. “this works” “right then said Gemini also balling up the goo and throwing it down the cable. “I will help”

(Location unknown
“December”
Bridge)

“captain” said the helm officer “the scourge are preparing to exit torsion.” “understood said Sapphire “see if you can get us ahead of them and then we can collapse the torsion field behind us and which should collapse the part of the field that there in destroying them in the process” “confirmed that is a logical course of events ” said Hydrojneiss “I recommend that as your course of action” “thank you Hydrojneiss “said Sapphire “let’s do it: helm get us ahead of the scourge fleet” ”yes sir” said the helm officer “moving into a position ahead of the scourge fleet”

(Location unknown
“38-9C”
Computer core)

“right” said Sam throwing a final large blob of red goo through the living red cable “this should be enough” “ok then” said Gemini throwing the blob of goo she was holding through the living red cable “let’s get back to our ship” “and with that Sam and Gemini did a run up and dived through the living Red cable and got thrown out the other side and landed in a huge pile of goo. “right” said Gemini “I have to get back to my node : so I will see you a sec yeah” “ok” said Sam “see you back in reality” “right” said Gemini as she dived through the living blue cable to her node. “I will hold you to that”

and with that Sam dived down the blue living cable that would take her back to reality. The second she touched it her mind was catapulted forwards up a completely black tunnel then suddenly she was back. “welcome back” said the technician standing next to Sam and Gemini “you ok” “yeah” said Sam as she could feel the liquid awesome being extracted from her blood stream “I am good” “whoa” said Gemini as she arrived back in her body “that was awesome” “so” said the technician as he tapped the holographic panel to extract the liquid awesome from Gemini’s bloodstream” “anyway” said Sam as she could feel the ships blood being drained from her blood vessels “we completed the mission and have the data” “yep” said the technician “we have already began the data extraction process” “oh ok” said Gemini as she too could feel the ships blood draining from her blood vessels. “cool” ”ok” said the technician as he once again tapped the holographic panel “were done” “well” said Sam as she could feel the living cables disconnect from the implants on her back. “that’s good” “yeah” said the technician deactivating the anti-gravity chambers before helping Sam and Gemini onto their feet. “you did good” “yeah” said Gemini swaying slightly as she stood next to Sam “agreed” ”don’t worry” said Sam putting her arm around Gemini’s waist to support her weight “I got you : now let’s head to the hanger bay so that we can maintain the pursuit once we drop torsion .” “ok” said Gemini “and thanks” “not to worry” said the Technician “it was no problem at all : I do it all the time” “what are we going to be using” asked Gemini “ a rapid launch interceptor” “wow good guess” said Sam “yeah that’s exactly what we will be flying” “cool” said Gemini ”it’s good to know”

(Hive World)

(Location unknown
Eternal War
Bridge)

“Katia” said Villiam over the ships comms “were dropping out of torsion in a few seconds standby”
“copy that” said Katia over the ships comms “I will adjust the tracking once we drop torsion”
“understood” said Villiam “exiting torsion now”
Suddenly the fleet decelerated and a Katia had to brace her against the acceleration then just seconds later a huge dark green and dark purple living planet came into view on the holographic displays.

(Location unknown
Hive World
“38-9C”
Rapid launch bay)

“wow” said Sam as the scourge fleet broke away from the human fleets and began moving at high speed away from the human fleet so as to get into orbit as fast as possible. “that’s pretty big”
“err” said Gemini looking out the hanger bay and towards the Hive World’s surface “is that living”
“what” said Sam looking at the surface of the Hive World again before she to saw the movement in the planet’s surface “ok I guess your right that is definitely moving.” “anyway” said Gemini “were here to pilot interceptors.” “well” said Sam “actually you’re going to be gunner on mine” “fine” said Gemini following Sam over to one of the docked interceptors that was docked in the hanger bay just 5 meters behind its launch tube. Once they reached it they climbed the ladder up to the twin cockpit of the ship. “right” said Sam carefully getting into the front acceleration seat “her we are” “right then” said Gemini placing one hand on the side rail that then canopy slid down and quickly manoeuvred herself into the cockpit and pulled down the top half of her acceleration seat “ready” “cool” said Sam pulling down the top half of her acceleration seat before tapping a code into the top mounted transparent holographic control panel. : Suddenly the cockpit canopy slid into flight position from its resting place on the front of the interceptor and seconds later all of the interceptors flight systems sprung to life then Sam flicked a switch on holographic panel on the top of the interceptors canopy. Then out of each acceleration seat 8 living cables manoeuvred themselves into the implants on Sam and Gemini’s backs. and then began to circulate blood and liquid awesome around there blood vessels. “Sarah this is Samantha Charles Eden :myself and Gemini are in interceptor 22-1157-B requesting launch clearance.” “err Sam” said Sarah over the comms “you do know that flight control gives launch permission and not the bridge” “yep” said Sam over the comms “of course I knew that” and with that Sam disconnected from the bridge comms and reconnected to the comms of flight control. She then nodded at Gemini. “ok fine” said Gemini seeing the nodding and assuming it meant Sam wanted her to conduct the conversation. “this is Gemini Eden of the interceptor 22-1157-B requesting launch clearance.” “copy Eden” said the main officer for flight control over the comms “launch clearance is granted.” “understood” said Gemini over the comms “thanks” “right then” said Sam as the launch tube opened and the interceptor was moved into it before the door closed behind them and the one in front of them opened. Above the inceptor and sticking out the roof was a large window through which Sam and Gemini could see a 9 holographic screens along with 15 flight staff. “well” said one of the flight staff over the comms as he stood next to the window. “you ready” “yeah” said Sam “ready” “copy that” said the flight staff member over the comms “launching” and with that the interceptors throttle set itself to 100% and then suddenly there was a huge amount of bright blue energy that went

shooting down the gravimetric acceleration system. And then suddenly Sam and Gemini were slammed against the back of their acceleration seats as the ship went from 0 to 57,500 meters per second in under a second. Then as suddenly as they were launched the interceptor cleared the launch tube and engaged its optical camouflage system as it shot into space. "and that's us" said Sam pulling back on the throttle and pushing the joystick to the left and then pulling it down so as to do a fast turn in the interceptor. Once she had completed the turn she levelled out the interceptor and pushed the throttle back up to 100% and they began to get rapidly closer to the scourge fleet. "Sam" said Sapphire over the comms "you're a bit ahead of the rest of the fleet so be careful : we are however proceeding as fast as possible to the orbital line so as to engage the scourge fleet." "something interfering with your long range sensors then" said Sam as she pushed forward on the joystick so as to dive under a scourge carrier. "turret are aligned" said Gemini tapping away at the holographic controls in front of her. "awaiting targets" "there one" said Sam as they came up at the other side of the carrier. "clear to engage" then Gemini used the connection she had with the ship to instantly move both the top and bottom turrets to point left before opening fire with the orb cannons on each of the turrets. The orb projectiles went flying through space lighting up all the debris that they passed then then impacted with a scourge bombers engines half melting them before detonating and imploding the scourge ship.

(Location unknown
Hive World
"December"
Bridge)

"captain" said the helm officer as the December decelerated "we have dropped torsion" "copy" said Sapphire "tactical give me the surface onscreen" "yes sir" said the Tactical officer tapping a few buttons on the nearby holo screen "got it" suddenly the Decembers holographic planning table sprung to life and began to display the surface of the planet. "ok right" said Sapphire "this clearing looks like a good piece of land to deploy a base from which we can conduct surface operations." "that's not such a good idea" said the tactical officer "the scourge would overrun us too quickly : we need to move faster." "wait a second" said Sapphire brushing a piece of her hair out of her eyes and behind her left ear. "we don't really need to get out of our ships do we : I mean what we need is in the centre of the planet anyway." "I don't follow you" said the tactical officer "what are you saying" "what I am saying" said Sapphire pointing through the 3d hologram and into the middle of the planet "is we just shoot our way right into the middle of the planet :extract the data then just keep on going till we come out the other side." "well" said the Tactical officer "our main ships can't do that : however the 57-9R has a full complement of Combat Tunnel Boring Machines : I will tell them to deploy." "thanks" said Sapphire "I will contact the 38-9C and see if one of the Eden's are available to pilot the CTBM's." "a good idea" said the comms officer "I will put you through now"

(Location unknown
Hive World
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"hi hi" said Sapphire over the transcom "is there any Eden's that are available to pilot a CTBM" "I can" said Jack "where do you need me" "the 57-9R" said Sapphire "probably best to vaporise there" "err" yelled the Decembers tactical officer over the transcom " you do realise the vaporisers are like totally offline" "stop interrupting" yelled Sapphire "I am having an important conversation

with another bridge" "yeah sure you are" yelled the Decembers Tactical officer just as the connection was terminated by the December. "right" said Sarah "you better go" "yeah" said Jack "see you in a bit" "ok cool" said Sarah "I will have a gunship fly you over to the 57-9R as we can't just vaporise you over there." "oh ok" said Jack "thanks" and with that Jack ran to the back of the bridge and took the gravimetric acceleration tube all the way down to the hanger bay. Where he boarded a medium gunship that was waiting to take him to the 57-9R. "going to take you to the 57-9R" said the gunships pilot "right" "yep" said Jack "sure is" "cool" said the pilot "lets go" and with that the pilot throttled up to 100% and went shooting out of the hanger bay before diving under a huge swarm of singularity missiles being fired from the December at the scourge fleet that was holding position in orbit ahead of the human fleet"

(Location unknown
Hive World
High orbit
Interceptor22-1157-B)

"we are approaching the scourge fleet" said Gemini "recommend you take evasive action" "already on it" said Sam as she suddenly pulled back on the joystick and sent the Interceptor flying straight through the middle of the Scourge fleet. "and now we show the universe why our last names our Eden" and with that Sam banked them into one of the most epic dogfights that either of them had ever seen. "Tracking Scourge interceptor" said Gemini as she made a fast bank to the right "range 3000 meters and closing." "copy" said Sam pushing the throttle to 333% "getting us closer" "hold we are in range" Said Gemini as they went round a very steep loop in the interceptor then red holographic hexagons began to track the Scourge . "Locking on" "copy" said Sam flipping them upside down then through a very half loop so as to follow the Scourge ships every movement. "Almost there" "Copy" said Gemini as the holographic hexagons turned green Signifying a target lock. "Engaging" suddenly Gemini pulled the trigger and 3 singularity missiles shot out of the right wing and began chasing the scourge ship before finally slamming into it a few moments later completely obliterating it in the process. "Hostile neutralised" announced Sam as the Scourge ship exploded and they went shooting through the debris made up of acid blood and crystal. Their armour getting corroded slightly due to the acid base weaponry of the scourge.

(Location unknown
Hive World
27-4A
Bridge)

"Captain" said the helm officer "we have exited torsion. : commencing orbital ejection burn" "ok then" said Ruby "oh and when achieve orbital you are clear to engage the scourge fleet." "Understood" said the helm officer "moving into position" and with that helm officer brought the 27-4A's main engines online and they began their orbital injection burn which would move them to the I2 point in the orbit around the scourge hive world.

(Location unknown
Hive World
High orbit

Interceptor22-1157-B)

“Quick update” said sapphire over the transcom “the 57-9R is preparing to launch CTBM’s you are to provide armed escort.” “Understood” said Sam pulling the interceptor into a fast climb into a higher orbit. “but we are still more than a little busy here already.” “Copy that” said Sapphire “we are moving to assist and will be within weapons range momentarily. : standby” “yep” yelled Sam over the transcom throwing the interceptor into another very fast turn to avoid a huge blob of acid fire by a scourge dreadnought. “we are definitely ready for assistance.” “Singularity missiles locked” said Gemini as the holographic targeting hexagons turned green. “firing” Gemini pulled the trigger and 3 singularity missiles shot out of the interceptor and seconds later the scourge ship they we chasing detonated into a cloud of blood ,crystal and acid.

(Location unknown

Hive World

(57-9R

Hanger bay)

The gunship landed on the hanger bays deck and after its engines had been powered down Jack walked down the ramp and onto the hangers deck. Ahead of Jack there was a weapons technician who was lying under a gunship and was attempting to fix it. Seeing that someone was over there Jack walked over to take a look. Seeing Jack coming the Technician slid out from under the gunship and walked over to Jack. “hey Jack” said the Technician “you probably don’t remember me” “well” said Jack “you got that right” “it’s me Eva” said the Technician “we went out many years ago” “oh yeah” said Jack “it’s good to see you again” “likewise” said Eva “anyway no time to talk we need to get you to your CTBM : follow me : we will walk and talk” and with that Jack began to walk with Eva towards the gravimetric acceleration tube. “so” said Eva “I can sense your Affinity’s is active :may I ask who you’re going out with” “fine” said Jack “do you remember Samantha” “Err” said Eva as they passed into the central section of the ship. “do you mean that weird Girl Samantha Charles Eden.” “yes” said Jack “and she’s lovely not weird.” “ok” said Eva looking slightly amused “whatever” and with that they were thrown out of the gravimetric acceleration tube and landed feet first in the CTBM launch bay.

Ahead of them there were 3000 CTBM’s all pointing down at a 45 degree angle each one measuring over 1000 meters long and all of them were covered in a large number of weapon systems. “so” said Eva “here we are” “yep” said Jack as Eva motioned him to follow her. “I am coming”

(Location unknown

Hive World

High obit

Interceptor22-1157-B)

“sapphire” said Sam as she circled the 57-9R “we are in position” “copy that” said Sapphire over the transcom “the 57-9R will be launching the CTBM’s within the next minute” “understood said Sam over the transcom “we are holding position”

(Location unknown
Hive World
27-4A
Bridge)

“captain said Ruby’s first officer “we are in weapons range : engaging” and then suddenly a huge amount of Heavy ION Cannon fire came shooting out of the 27-4A and began to shoot towards the Scourge fleet. Then just seconds later the Beams impacted the scourge ships with so much force that almost all of the Scourge ships that were hit exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal with a few heavily damaged ships moving into a lower orbit so as to avoid further damage from the human fleets weapon systems.

(chapter 18)
(going to ground)

(Location unknown
Hive World
(57-9R
CTBM launch bay)

“right here we are” said Eva as a huge explosion reverberated through the ship “this will be yours” “alright” said Jack as he began to walk towards the CTBM’s airlock “anything else” “not really” yelled Eva who was about to jump back into the gravimetric acceleration tube “its just : I am sorry about what happened between us and if you ever need anything all you have to do is let me know. : Stay Safe Jack :oh and say hi to Sam for me” “you to Eva” said Jack turning around to look back at Eva “and yeah I will say hi to Sam for you.” And with that Jack stepped into the airlock and it closed behind him with a loud thud.

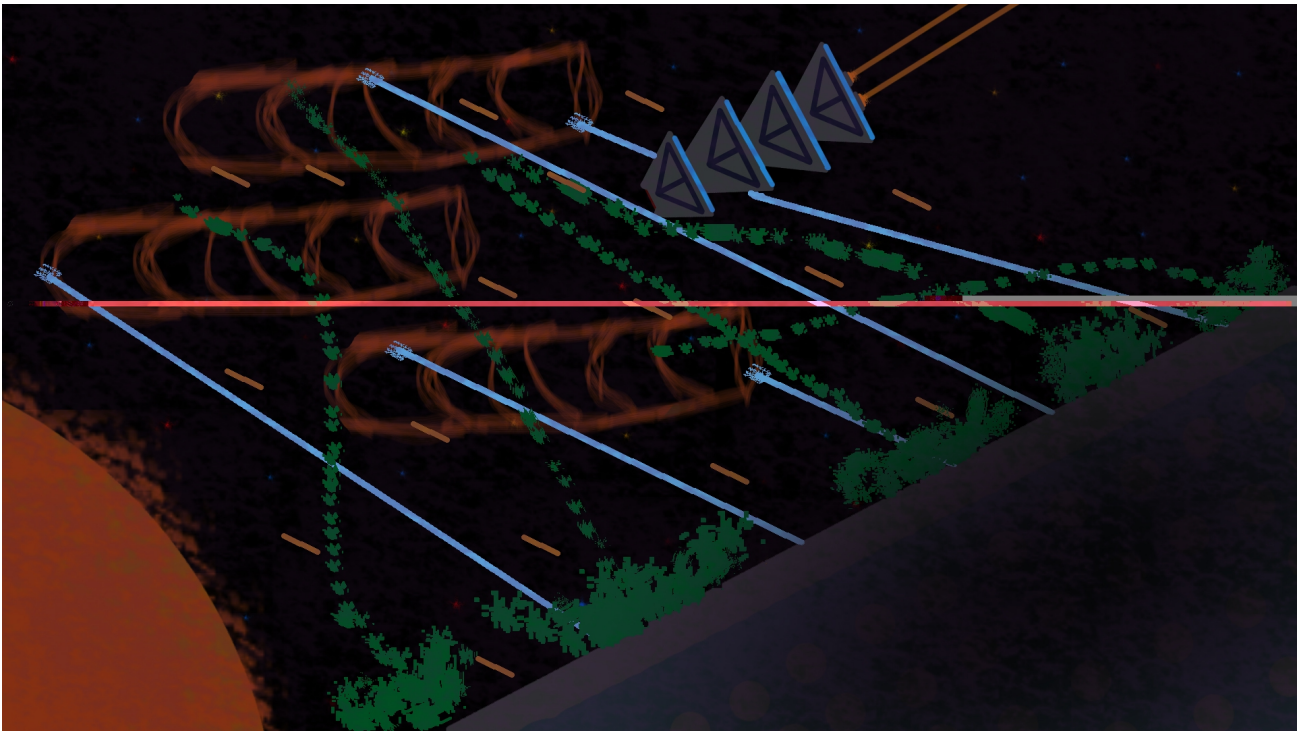
“welcome on-board” said Jessica her avatar standing just outside of the airlocks door “how have you been” “good” said Jack “and you promise you won’t be annoying” “look” said Jessica “that was the old me : now I am far less annoying” “ok whatever” said Jack “just take me to the Bridge” “yes sir” said Jessica “right away” then a whole minute of silence passed. “look Jack if you must know I got demoted” said Jessica “apparently I was too annoying” “well you can’t deny that” said Jack “I mean you were pretty annoying” “yeah I guess” Said Jessica reaching the gravimetric acceleration tube. “look Jack as I am an AI I can’t follow you thought the tunnel : So I will see you on the other side.” “ok” said Jack “see you there” and with that Jack stepped into the gravimetric acceleration tube and just a minute later was catapulted out and landed face first on the floor of the bridge. “you ok” asked Jessica her avatar clearly showing signs of being concerned. “yeah” Said Jack “I am fine I just tripped on the exit that’s all.” “ok then” said Jessica “in that case lets go” “right” said Jack sitting down in the captain’s chair which was an acceleration seat and pulling down the top half. “let’s go” “understood” said Jessica “Awaiting launch permission : ok launch permission has been received : initiating launch sequence” Suddenly there was a split second of freefall as the docking clamps disengaged. Then suddenly there was a huge burst of acceleration as the CTBM’s main engines fired pushing Jack into the back of the Chair. as the group of 3000 CTBM’s began there decent towards the Scourge Hive World. Out of the bridges window Jack could see human ships stretching across the horizon all the way from one edge to the other. Then suddenly and interceptor flew up alongside the window. And in the interceptors cockpit Jack could See Sam and

Gemini waving to him. Then Sam put her hand up towards the top of the interceptors canopy and flicked a switch on holographic panel situated there. "hey jack" said Sam over the transcom "how are you doing" "oh" said Jack "I am fine and by the way I ran into Eva and she says hi" "oh that's nice" said Sam "anyway we can assist you until you go underground as we lack that capability." "understood" said Jack "we should be able to take it from there."

(Location unknown
Hive World
High orbit
Interceptor22-1157-B)

"this is Sapphire Ethereal of the Titan Core December" said Sapphire over the transom "all ships are to maintain orbital until we can confirm that the surface is suitable for deployment of surface teams." "well" said Sam maintaining the formation with the CTBM that Jack was commanding. "I guess we are staying in space." "Sam" said Gemini urgently "we have a large formation of scourge fighters incoming." "understood" said Sam extending the distance from the CTBM "stand by to brake right" then suddenly 500 scourge fighters went shooting past Sam and Gemini's interceptor. "ok now" said Sam as she Through the craft into a hard turn to the right "Gemini engage those ships." "copy" said Gemini as red holographic hexagons began to track the Scourge "preparing to engage."

(Location unknown
Hive World
CTBM
bridge)



"captain" said Jessica her avatar looking out of the window at the ongoing spacefight "we are clear of our fleet and about to commence our de-orbit burn." "understood" said Jack looking in the general direction of Jessica's avatar "proceed." "initiating de-orbit burn" said Jessica as the ship rotated and then fired its main engines at full power in order to de orbit into the planet. "stand by

for turbulence as we enter the atmosphere.” Suddenly Sam and Gemini shot by the window in there interceptor and fired missiles at the scourge ahead of their ship before continuing to chase down more scourge ships which were attacking the group of CTBM’s.

(Location unknown
Hive World
High orbit
Interceptor22-1157-B)

Suddenly a scourge interceptor flew up behind Sam and Gemini seeing this Sam throttled the ships engines back so as to let the Scourge ship overshoot them.

“Gemini” yelled Sam as they began to match speed with the scourge ship “target ahead clear to engage” “ “copy “ said Gemini as she used the living cables that connected her to the ship to instantly move both the top and bottom turrets to point forward towards the Scourge ship. Before opening fire with the orb cannons on each of the turrets. The orb projectiles went flying through space before slamming into the interceptor causing it to explode in into a cloud of blood and crystal.

(Location unknown
Hive World
“December”
Bridge)

“captain” said the Tactical officer “the CTBM fleet is about to enter the atmosphere of the Scourge hive world” “thanks” said Sapphire as the December continued to fire its Heavy ION Cannons at the scourge fleet. “anyway let’s get this done” “yes sir” said the Tactical officer. “already on it”

(chapter 19) ***(Groundside)***

(Location unknown
Hive World atmosphere
CTBM
bridge)

“captain” said Jessica her avatar looking out of the window through the plasma that was coming off the armour and towards the surface of the planet. “the surface of the hive world seems to be biological” “how does that matter” asked jack as the plasma heating became so bright he could no longer look out of the window. “we just go straight underground don’t we” “well” said Jessica gesturing towards the window “while it is true that we normally just go straight underground :the surface below is like nothing I have records on.” “well then we just maintain our current course” said Jack “I will work” “well” said Jessica “you certainly aren’t going to convince anyone if you say it like that. But I do see where you’re coming from”

then suddenly the plasma that covered the window disappeared and the Hive Worlds living surface came into view. “ok” said Jessica “that’s weird” “agreed” said Jack “that’s not nice”

then suddenly part of the surface opened up and a large swarm of scourge interceptors started to fly straight towards them. "incoming hostiles" announced Jessica "deploying countermeasures" suddenly thousands of missiles shot out of cracks between the armour plates and after flying just 55 meters from the CTBM's Armour the missiles main engines engaged creating a loud bang. They then went shooting towards the incoming Scourge ships. The second the missiles reached the centre of the group of scourge ships they exploded creating a cloud of explosions that disintegrated the incoming scourge interceptors leaving nothing but a extremely fine cloud of blood and crystal.

"good shot" said Jack looking out of the window "got all of them there" "confirmed" said Jessica "hostiles neutralised : commencing terrain insertion burn" suddenly the main engines on the CTBM fleet engaged again and stayed online because of this Jack was pushed into the back of his acceleration seat due to the acceleration. Then a second later the armour of the CTBM fleet rearranged itself and began to rotate at a speed of 33,000 RPM. "Surface contact in 5 seconds" said Jessica "standby for terrain insertion." The suddenly the CTBM fleet made contact with the surface of the Hive World throwing organic material into the air. The CTBM fleet entered the inside of the Hive World with ease leaving a crater full of blood and crystal behind them.

(Location unknown
Hive World
"December"
Bridge)

"captain situation update" said the Tactical officer as he one shot a scourge frigate with the Decembers Heavy ION Cannons "the CTBM fleet has entered the Hive World : what do you want them to do" "find the Shard world" said Sapphire gesturing towards the bridges holographic planning table "then once they have located the Shard world they are to return to orbital." "planning to destroy it from orbit" Asked the Tactical officer "if by it you mean the Hive World." Said sapphire "then yes" "ok" said the Tactical officer "just checking"

(Location unknown
Hive World interior
CTBM
bridge)

"wow" said jack looking out the window at the inside of the Hive World. "this is pretty weird : it's like were inside a scourge lifeform" "confirmed" said Jessica "that would be correct" "this is the December to all CTBM's" said Sapphire over the transcom "you mission is to retrieve locational information on the Shard world that is closest to our universe so we can destroy it and by doing so ensure Humanity's survival." "right" said Jack looking out of the window at the blood and crystal that was being thrown of the front of the CTBM "any hostiles" "Negative" said Jessica "but I am still looking" "ok cool" said Jack "let me know if you find anything" "understood" said Jessica as her avatar looked out of the window in a state of concentration "wait I have got something : there closing :contact imminent" "what" said Jack "where" "there over there" said Jessica her avatar pointing to the right "they are about 30 seconds away from our fleet : request permission to engage"

"granted" said Jack "take them out" "engaging hostiles" said Jessica then suddenly Jack was

thrown sideways in his acceleration seat as the CTBM fleet began firing its rapid fire ORB cannon through the terrain towards the incoming scourge “engagement has commenced” the ORB shots went shooting through the terrain like it wasn’t there and slammed into the incoming scourge lifeforms causing them to explode into blood and crystal which then was reabsorbed by the Hive world”

“well” said Jack looking towards Jessica’s avatar “If they didn’t know we were here : they do now” “agreed” said Jessica her avatar disappearing “let’s be careful” a whole minuet passed before someone on the CTBM’s bridge spoke again. “warning communications offline” said Jessica “we are on our own” “well” said Jack looking over at the holographic planning table at the depth information that read -150,000 meters “we do have the rest of the CTBM fleet if we get into problems : we will be fine”

(Location unknown
Hive World
High orbit
Interceptor22-1157-B)

“Sam , Gemini please report to the 38-9C bridge immediately” Said Sarah over the transcom“ our computer Core is like totally overloaded and I need you to do that thing where you connect yourself to the ship again to solve the problem” “understood” said Sam over the transcom whilst banking hard to the left so as to bring them back towards the 38-9C “were on the way” “thanks” said Sarah over the transcom “and sorry for pulling you off the fight outside” “oh” said Sam over the transcom as she flew under a Scourge Carrier as Gemini fired all the remaining singularity missiles at the carrier as they went past causing it to bleed into space “that’s quite alright : after all as exciting as this is it will be nice to get my feet back on solid ground” “yeah” said Sarah over the transcom “the transcom I guess so”

as Sam expertly piloted the interceptor through the scourge fleet. Gemini was using the connection she had with Sam to synchronise the shots from the two the orb cannon turrets. So as to not hit the interceptor they were in. as the scourge ships were being taken out left right and centre by Gemini and her well shots from the ships orb cannon turrets.

(Location unknown
Hive World interior
CTBM
bridge)

“warning hostiles detected” Said Jessica “34,000 meters and closing” “right” said Jack “your clear to engage” “understood” Said Jessica firing off a barrage of ORB shots from the CTBM’s many rapid fire ORB cannons. “Engaging” suddenly Jack was thrown forward into the front of the acceleration seat as the CTBM fleet moved through a denser part of the Hive World. “we have a bone structure of some kind : our speed is reduced” “said Jessica “compensating” then near instantly Jessica reconfigured the CTBM’s armour so as to make it cut through the Hive World faster. As a result the CTBM returned to its normal velocity seeing this strategy the rest of the CTBM fleet also reconfigured there armour and within seconds the fleet returned to its original

speed.

(Location unknown
Hive World
High orbit
Interceptor22-1157-B)

Suddenly the interceptor decelerated and docked with the 38-9C. Once the interceptor had docked Sam and Gemini could feel the living cables disconnecting from the implants on their backs. Then they pushed up the top half of the interceptors acceleration seats and retraced the cockpits canopy and jumped down onto deck of the hanger landing with a loud metallic clang. "Right" said Sarah turning to face the gravimetric acceleration tube. "Follow me" "wait a second" said Sam as Sarah began to walk towards the gravimetric acceleration tube "shouldn't you be on the bridge"

"errrr" said Sarah starting to walk over to the gravimetric acceleration tube
"its ok I have our tactical officer in command" "ok fine" said Sam following Sarah towards the gravimetric acceleration tube "I guess that counts as a qualified person" "look let's just get this done" said Gemini following Sam "after all there other stuff I want to do today" "really" said Sarah stepping into the gravimetric acceleration tube "I thought that this was what you enjoyed" "ha" said Gemini following Sarah into the gravimetric acceleration tube "not quite" "so" said Sam as she followed Gemini into the gravimetric acceleration tube "want to do then" "to be honest" said Gemini I am not entirely sure : all I know is that I don't think a life in the military is one that I want" "yeah I can see where you're coming from" said Sam "after all I feel the same way myself"

(Location unknown
Hive World interior
CTBM
bridge)

"captain" said Jessica as the CTBM continued to burrow deeper into the Hive World "we are nearing the centre of the Hive World" "good" said Jack who was still concentrating on the window ahead where the inside of the Hive World was rushing past. "once we arrive at the objective be sure to obtain the locational data on the Shard world as soon as possible." "yes sir" said the tactical officer tapping away at his holographic console "understood"

(chapter 20) ***(Inside)***

(Location unknown
Hive World
"December"
Bridge)

"Captain" said the tactical officer standing next to the holographic planning table which was showing the Location of the CTBM fleet. "the CTBM fleet has arrived in the Centre of the Hive World and should have the location of the Shard world soon" "very good" said Sapphire getting up from the captain's chair and walking over to the holographic planning table to look at the flow of battle. "keep me updated : and get back to shooting at the Scourge." "yes sir" said the tactical

officer walking back over to the tactical console. "understood" upon reaching the holographic console the tactical officer began firing the Heavy ION Cannons at the scourge fleet. Suddenly one of the Heavy ION Cannon's beams connected with a scourge Dreadnought and it hit it with so much force that in addition to being melted part of the Dreadnought armour was blasted off in a cloud of blood and crystal and the resulting debris began to float out into space.

"good hit" said Sapphire looking over towards the tactical console "but I bet you could cut in in half with another salvo" "you're on" said the tactical officer tapping away at his holographic console "firing" suddenly another huge wave of Heavy ION Cannon shots went shooting across the battlespace and slammed into the damaged dreadnought and the resulting explosion caused blood and crystal to fly across the battlespace before getting embedded in nearby Scourge ships causing them to fire a huge wave of Acid and spines in retaliation. After flying across the battlespace the acid and spines impacted the hull of the December pushing its Acrpcrthum armour tank to the limit once again. Seeing this the UUDF support ships began to create an energy shield around the December to try and reduce some of the incoming damage with form the scourge.

(Location unknown

"38-9C"

Computer core)

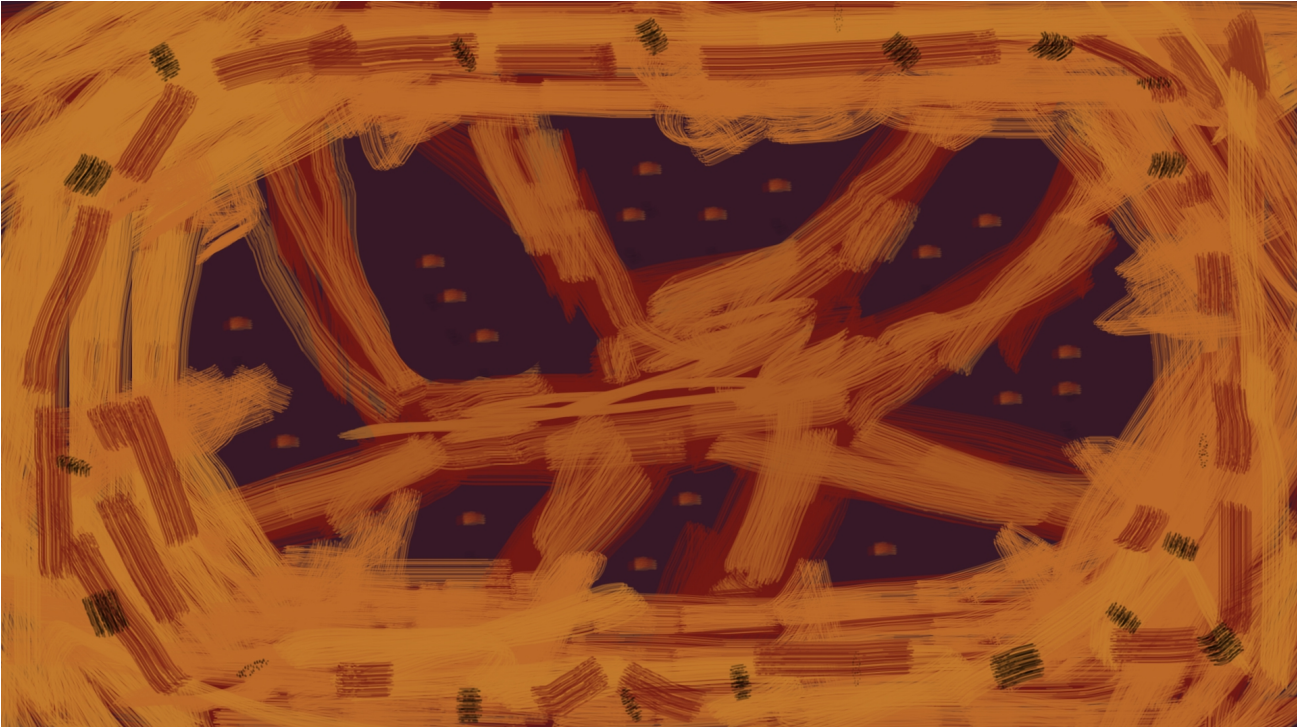
Sarah continued to the bridge after Sam and Gemini got out at the computer core.

"back for more" asked the Technician "that was quick" "yeah" said Sam "let's go" "alright" said the Technician "let's go" "right ok then" said the Technician coming to a stop next to the end two anti-gravity chambers . "right" said the technician "lie down and we will get this started " and with that they both Lied down in the anti-gravity chambers and the technician then onlined them causing Sam and Gemini to float in mid-air. Then suddenly 2 bundles of 8 living cables began to emerge out of the anti-gravity chambers and began moving towards the implants on Sam and Gemini's backs. "right cool" said the technician as he pushed the connect button on a holographic panel above him "you know what to expect" the feeling was very weird as the cables first slid into the implants in their backs before connecting to the inside of the implants where the top 6 were connected up to extensions that came down their spines from there brain stems whereas the bottom two connections contained the blood vessels needed to power the connection. "wow" said Sam feeling the ships blood flowing through her "this is pretty weird : although better the second time round " "yeah" said the technician "tends to be." After a few seconds the technician looked "right then" said the technician "establishing now : synchronising" Sam could feel the blood being circulated through her speed up to full speed. "Looking good" said the technician "connection is ready" Sam could feel the blood change consistently as the chemical known to most as liquid awesome was added into her bloodstream this allowed her brain to slow down time by up to 900,000 times which gave her a huge amount of time to assess the tactical situation. Then suddenly the technician said "establishing connection" and her mind was catapulted backwards and she found herself falling down a large and completely black tunnel. Then as suddenly as it started it was over and she was flung out of the black tunnel and landed on her back in the middle of a living node with hundreds of thousands of blue and red and green living cables leading to other nodes. And landed in a huge puddle of green goo.

30 seconds later Gemini was Suddenly catapulted into the node covered in green goo. "and were back down here" said Sam to herself looking around the node whilst standing I a puddle of green goo. "well I guess we wait" "yeah I guess so" said Gemini also standing in the green goo that covered the bottom of the node "not much else to do"

(Location unknown

Hive World interior)



“right” said Jack walking out of the CTBM in full armour and holding an ARC Projection Cannon “let’s go” and with that Jack and the tactical officer began to run across the living cavern that the CTBM had arrived in. “we got incoming” said the Tactical officer pulling out an assault rifle “the scourge are on the move towards us” then suddenly the scourge came pouring out of an opening in the right wall and started coming right at them. Seeing this Jack fired the ARC Projection Cannon and the living rocks nearby were lit by blue lightening as it arced from the tip of the gun across to the scourge as well as the floor and walls. The scourge tanked the ARC Projection Cannon for all of 5 seconds before exploding into a cloud of blood and crystals. “sorted” said Jack let’s keep moving” “wait a second” said the tactical officer “what exactly are we looking for” “no idea” said Jack crouching under a low to the ground living rock. “I reckon we will know it when we see it” “right” said the tactical officer “lets keep moving then” “ agreed” said Jack “lets”

(Location unknown
“38-9C”
Computer core)

“Wow” said Sam picking up some of the green goo and throwing it up into the air and catching it as it began to fall “this is boring” “yeah true” said Gemini looking around towards the other nodes. “hey I know : let’s have a look around” “yeah” said Sam “why not” and with that Sam and Gemini dived into a nearby blue Living cable and seconds later were thrown out into a nearby node. “Gemini ” said Sam Shaking off some of the green goo that had stuck to her. “you ok” “err yeah” said Gemini “I’m good”

(Location unknown

Hive World interior)

“well” said Jack running through the living craven with his ARC Projection Cannon “we should be pretty close now” “yeah” said the tactical officer looking at the holographic display on his wrist computer “after all we are at the centre of the Scourge Hive World” well” said Jack “let’s keep moving” “agreed” said the tactical officer tapping commands into his wrist computer to get a higher resolution on his scan results” scans indicate that there is a main data connection nearby” “alright” said Jack excitedly “lets get over there : you lead the way and I will follow you” “right then” said the Tactical officer as he turned right and headed down a side passage closely followed by Jack “follow me”

(chapter 21)
(data retrieval)

(Location unknown
Hive World
“December”
Bridge)

“captain” said the comms officer “the Eternal War is sustaining major damage and is requesting permission to disengage from the fight” “understood” said Sapphire gesturing towards the holographic planning table “if she needs to disengage : she may do so” “understood” said the comms officer just as a huge blob of acid impacted the ship throwing the bridge crew off balance for a second “relaying message now”

(Location unknown
Hive World
“Eternal War”
Bridge)

“Villiam” said Katia as blobs of acid as well as a large volume of spines continued to impact the hull of the Eternal War at high speed compromising its Shield’s and pushing it into its Acrpcthurm armour tank. “permission to disengage has been received from the December” “understood” said Villiam tapping on the holographic console next to him “engaging Phoenix Graviton Drive” for a few seconds “Eternal War” just floated in place then it activated its Phoenix Graviton Drive and the ship looked as if it was being stretched from the front of the ship all the way to its destination then it shot off towards its destination leaving nothing in its place.

(Location unknown
Hive World interior)

“wow” said Jack looking straight towards a huge data hub that was part biological and part crystalline. “I bet that’s what we are looking for” “oh yeah” said the Tactical officer “looks important” “agreed” said Jack beginning to sprint towards it “let’s get over there” as they approached the Scourge data hub. The nearby Scourge reacted and began to come rushing towards them. “we got incoming” yelled Jack raising his ARC Projection Cannon and pointing it towards the Scourge “I’m engaging” suddenly Jack pulls the trigger on the ARC Projection Cannon and it fires

sending a huge stream of blue lightening towards the Scourge that were coming towards them. The stream slammed into the lead scourge lifeform causing it to exploding into a cloud of blood and crystal before lighting up the nearby living rocks as more lightening arced from scourge to scourge causing each one it connected with to explode into a cloud of blood and crystal. "you know what" yelled Jack over the sound of the battle "this weapon is pretty effective" "agreed" said the tactical officer as they neared the data hub "we are almost there too" "incoming" yelled Jack as he dived behind a living rock to avoid a huge blob of acid that had been fired at him by a flying Scourge lifeform "two can play at that game" suddenly the shoulders of Jack's armour raised up then slid back. Revealing 9 Fury missiles per shoulder. Then there was a huge bang and one of the missiles launched vertically out of each of Jack's shoulders surrounding him in red smoke before Turning to face the scourge in the air and with a second bang and a huge cloud of red smoke the 2 fury missiles accelerated to 15,000 meters per second. Jack's armour returned the shoulder plates to their normal position just as the tactical officer dived sideways into the cover with him. Then they both crouched behind the cover and just 3 seconds later there was a massive bang and huge flash of red light. Then suddenly a huge wall of fire shot over there cover propelled by the massive shockwave generated by the fireball that was created by the fury missile. Then the second missile impacted with a second massive bang and a second huge flash of red light sending another huge wall of fire shooting over there cover.

Jack carefully stood back up and together with the tactical officer vaulted over the cover and began to run toward the data hub through a field of living debris blood and crystal that was covering the whole floor of the living cavern. "you do realise " said the Tactical officer "that one would of done the job" "yeah" said Jack "but it would of looked only half as Awesome" "whatever" said the Tactical officer "let's just get this done"

(Location unknown
Hive World
"December"
Bridge)

"captain" said the Tactical officer looking at the information provided to him by his holographic console "the Eternal War has successfully extracted from the battle" "excellent" said Sapphire looking at the holographic planning table "the scourge are moving towards us again" "don't worry" said the tactical officer "I got this" suddenly 1000's of Heavy ION Cannons fired straight towards the incoming scourge ships causing them to brake formation. Unfortunately the bright blue beams tracked them as they moved and the beams impacted the scourge ships with so much force that the kinetic impact was enough to cause them to explode into a huge cloud of blood and crystal.

(Location unknown
"38-9C"
Computer core)

"well" said Gemini crossing her arms and in doing so sending green goo flying towards the sides of the node "this could be more exciting" "agreed" said Sam crossing her arms and leaning up against one of the walls of the node "your right this could definitely be more interesting" "so" said Gemini "how do we know when they know longer need us" "a good point" said Sam "the simple answer is I have no idea"

(Location unknown

Hive World interior)

“right” said Jack as they came within 150 meters of the data hub “almost there” “yep” said the tactical officer sprinting alongside Jack “keep running” suddenly a group of 5 scourge Lifeforms went flying over them propelled by acid that was shooting out of their backs. Suddenly they landed behind Jack and the Tactical officer and began to fire spines at them. Seeing this they both dived sideways into the cover to their right. “ok” said Jack slightly confused “they can fly” “yeah” said the tactical officer “it would seem so” and with that Jack swung his ARC Projection Cannon up onto the cover so as to rest some of its weight onto the cover. Then he pulled the trigger sending a stream of lightning towards the scourge. Seeing this the Scourge fired out more acid out of their backs and shot up into the air before opening fire with their spines. Seeing this Jack quickly ducked back behind the cover. “right” said Jack as spines continued to slam into the other side of the cover. “these Scourge are definitely more intelligent than most” “agreed” said the tactical officer “there using tactics rather than just coming straight at us” “well then we use tactics too” said Jack “when I say so you make a run for the cover about 10 meters to my left : that way we will have a better crossfire and be able to hit them” “agreed” said the tactical officer still crouched behind the cover “ready” “ok” said Jack “go :now” and with that the tactical officer suddenly got up and sprinted towards the cover and with an epic forward dive ended up behind it. Then suddenly the scourge split into two groups and were caught in the crossfire between Jack and the tactical officer. Suddenly they landed in the middle of Jack and the tactical officer and seeing this Jack through a grenade towards them and both he and the tactical officer dived back into cover. then a split second later there was a huge bang and a singularity appeared in the centre of the scourge. Causing them to be sucked in and destroyed. Then just one second later the singularity collapsed and Jack and the tactical officer regrouped and began to run towards the data hub.

Just 20 seconds later they reached the part biological and part crystalline surface of the data hub. “right” said Jack pulling a data extraction spike that was attached to his armour off and ramming it into the surface of the data hub sending blood and crystal pouring out of the hole that it had created “let’s get our data” “they probably felt that” said the tactical officer “we should contact the CTBM fleet and get them to prepare for extraction” “agreed” said Jack switching his transcom on “this is Jack Eden : data extraction is in progress : and we are awaiting extraction in 1 minute from the weak point of bone approximately 100 meters to our east.” “copy” said Jessica over the transcom “we are inbound : ETTT is 45 seconds” “right” said Jack “extraction is inbound” and with that the armour on Jack’s shoulders moved once again to reveal the remaining fury missiles. Suddenly there was a huge bang and all the remaining missiles shot straight towards the ceiling in a cloud of red smoke. And after accelerating to 15,000 meters per second they then proceeded to slam into the ceiling with a massive bang and a huge flash of red light as ceiling turned into a massive red fireball. “compromised the structural integrity of the ceiling a good idea ” said the Tactical officer as the armour over Jack’s shoulders slid back into place. “let’s get ready to go” suddenly the data extraction spike beeped and the light on the top of it turned from red to green. Seeing this Jack grabbed it and attached it to his armour. “right” said Jack turning to face the extraction point “let’s go” And with that Jack and the tactical officer began to sprint the 100 meters to the extraction zone.

(time to go)

(Location unknown
Hive World interior)

As Jack and the tactical officer reached the halfway point there was a huge cracking sound and seconds later the CTBM fleet came falling out of the ceiling surrounded by falling crystal and blood from the hole that had been created in the ceiling. "and there they are" said Jack as the CTBM fleet landed next to them and the armour on the side of the nearest one moved so as to let them inside. "let's get back to orbit" and with that Jack and the tactical officer stepped into the CTBM's airlock and once they were inside the airlocks door closed behind them with a loud thud. They then walked into the armoury where Jack removed the armour he was wearing and placed it on its rack. As the tactical officer did the same the CTBM began to accelerate and was soon heading towards the surface of the Hive World at high speed. Upon reaching the bridge Jack and the tactical officer sat down. "welcome back" said Jessica her avatar appearing just above the holographic planning table. "I assume the mission went well" "yeah thanks" said Jack looking out the bridge window at the interior of the Hive World as it rushed by "we have got the data" "mission completed Returning to The surface" said Jessica "ETTT till surface is 65 seconds"

(Location unknown
"38-9C"
Computer core)

Suddenly Sam said "and were needed elsewhere" and dived down the green living cable to take her back to the node from which she would be able to return to reality. Gemini followed Sam and soon they were in the right node and they both dived into the blue living cables that would take them back to reality. The second she touched it her mind was catapulted forwards up a completely black tunnel then suddenly she was back. "Eden" said the technician "we should receive an update from the CTBM fleet soon" "very good" said Sam walking towards the Gravimetric acceleration tube. "come on Gemini : we need to go to the hanger bay grab the ship and then pick up Jack" "yeah ok" said Gemini walking over to Sam "I am on the way" after waiting for Gemini to catch up Sam stepped into the Gravimetric acceleration tube and began moving towards the hanger bay at high speed. Upon reaching the hanger bay Sam and Gemini walked over to one of the heavy gunships and walked up the ramp. As she and Gemini entered the cockpit it's holographic displays sprung to life. Sam and Gemini then proceeded to sit down in the cockpit's acceleration seats. And after pulling down the top half Sam grabbed hold of the throttle and joystick. "and" said Gemini pulling down the top half of her acceleration seats "off we go" "indeed" said Sam pushing the throttle to 100% sending the ship shooting out of the hanger and pushing her and Gemini into the back of their acceleration seats due to the amount of acceleration. And within seconds they were in space. "and were off"

(Location unknown
Hive World interior)

"standby" said Jessica "we are about to breach the surface of the Hive World" "understood" said Jack pushing himself into the back of his acceleration seat to brace himself for the surface breach. Then suddenly the CTBM fleet came shooting out of the ground in a cloud of blood and crystal before tilting over and slamming into the ground sending dust blood and crystal flying into the air. Then in the air above Jack's CTBM there was a very loud noise and Sam shot overhead in a heavy

gunship and banked into a hard right turn. And after moving into position over the CTBM fleet. As Sam did this loose blood and crystal was thrown into the air due to the amount of downwash from the 16 huge propellers separated into 8 propeller wells and 6 large fusion engines on the edges of the heavy gunship. The rear engine pulsed a few more times and then the heavy gunship began to land using its fusion engines burning a large amount of the surface of the Hive World. around the landing site as it came down for its landing. Finally the heavy gunship extended its landing gear before landing with a huge bang splitting the ground in the areas around its landing gear creating pools of blood and crystal as it settled on the ground. Suddenly there was a hiss of escaping air and the boarding ramp was lowered on to the ground. And Sam ran down the boarding ramp and over to the airlock. Where she found Jack waiting just outside the airlock. Sam then proceeded to pick up Jack and turned around and carried Jack back onto the heavy gunship. Once they were on board Sam placed Jack into an acceleration seat before returning to her own acceleration seat in the cockpit.

Once back in the cockpit and in the pilots acceleration seat Sam placed one hand on the joystick and the other hand on the throttle. "and up we go" said Sam pushing the throttle to 100% sending the Heavy gunship shooting into the air. "right lets get back into orbit" "so" said Gemini as a series of transport ships flew past them on there way to recover the CTBM's "you got the data" "oh" said Jack as the Heavy gunship began to climb straight up into space "yep"

(Location unknown
Hive World
"December"
Bridge)

"captain" said the comms officer "Jack has the data and is proceeding to orbital" "understood" said Sapphire "send a message to Jack and him to bring the data to the December immediately" "yes sir" said the coms officer switching to priority transom 1 "Jack Eden you are to proceed to the December right away for data transfer" "understood" said Jack over priority transom 1 "were inbound" "captain" said the tactical officer "the CTBM fleet has been recovered and are returning to orbit." "thanks for the update" said Sapphire "once our forces are out of the atmosphere of the Hive World we will destroy the Hive World." "understood" said the tactical officer "disarming safety's on cataclysm missiles"

(Location unknown
Heavy gunship)

"Right" said Sam throttling back to 70% "we are approaching the December and they are ready for docking" and with that Sam expertly piloted the Heavy gunship into one of the December's hanger bays. And after docking up she extended the ramp for Jack. "oh and Jack" yelled Sam as Jack was getting out of his acceleration seat "stay safe ok" "its ok" said Jack "I will be quick" Jack ran across the hanger bay and over to a gravimetric acceleration tube. Which he proceeded jump into. After 3 minutes Jack arrived on the bridge. "Welcome on board the December" said Sapphire walking over to greet him "I trust you have the data" "right here" said Jack pulling the data extraction spike off his armour and placing it in sapphires outstretched hand. "I hope it's what we are looking for" "well" said Sapphire turning towards the holographic planning table and beginning to walk towards it. Upon reaching the table she plugged the data extraction spike into one of the holographic planning tables external ports "let's hope this contains the location of a shard world" "ok" said Jack following Sapphire over to the holographic planning table "got it" "yep"

your right about that” said sapphire brushing her hair out of her right eye whilst studying the holographic projection. “it looks like the positional information is here but we will need the help from the computers in triangulum in order to extract the data.” “so we got it” said Jack “awesome” “tactical” said Sapphire “report status on cataclysm missiles :are they ready” “yes sir” said the Tactical officer as the December was hit by a huge volley of spines from a scourge dreadnought “ready to fire on your command” “understood” said Sapphire “comms send a message to the entire fleet and tell them to extend the distance from the Hive World : and advise them on what we are about to fire.” “yes sir :right away” said the comms officer switching to fleetcom “this is the December we are preparing to fire cataclysm missiles at the scourge hive world : all ships are to move to and hold position outside the blast radius” “captain” Said Hydrojneiss “allied forces are on the move : estimate 30 seconds till they are outside the blast radius” “understood” said Sapphire “keep me updated” after 30 seconds of nervous waiting on the bridge. “captain” said Hydrojneiss “all allied forces are holding at a safe distance” “understood” said Sapphire walking back over to the captain’s chair and sitting down. “right Tactical : fire cataclysm missiles at scourge hive world” “sir yes sir” said tactical tapping a string of complex commands into the holographic panel in front of him. suddenly there was a huge bang and a massive flash of dark red light and 90 cataclysm missiles went shooting out of the front of the ship in a cloud of dark red smoke “we have weapons release” suddenly there was a second massive flash of dark red light and the 90 cataclysm missiles accelerated towards the hive world. “impact imminent” said Hydrojneiss “ETTT 15 seconds : engaging torsion drive” suddenly the December entered torsion and There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the December entering torsion. And all that remained where the December used to be was a cloud of light grey mist.

Suddenly the December began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the bridge. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the December arrived in position right next to the rest of the human fleet. Suddenly the cataclysm missiles impacted the Hive World causing a massive purple explosion as large portions of the Hive World instantly turned to plasma. The plasma propelled by the shockwave from the explosion sent debris, blood and crystal flying across space towards the human fleet. But before the plasma reached the human fleet it dissipated leaving just the debris, blood and crystal to collide and ricochet off the ships of the human fleet.

“target destroyed ” said Hydrojneiss “no hostiles detected” “science” said Sapphire quickly “confirm” “confirmed” said the science officer “I am not picking up the signatures of any hostiles” “confirmed” said Sapphire “well done : all ships are clear to stand down” “sapphire ” said the comms officer “I just received a message from Sam : Jack is to report to the hanger bay immediately” “understood” said Sapphire getting up to shake Jack’s hand “thanks for the data and I will see you soon” “likewise” said Jack shaking sapphire’s hand “see you soon” and with that Jack left the bridge via the gravimetric acceleration tube and returned to the hanger bay and the Heavy gunship that Sam and Gemini were on and launched into space .

(Origin)

(Location unknown
Heavy gunship)

“so” said Sam as Jack entered the cockpit and sat in the acceleration seat next to her “how did it go” “err” said Jack as he pulled down the top half of the acceleration seat “well” “so” said Sam moving the throttle to 100% and moving the joystick forward to drop them below a Firecarrier “I take it that it was the right data then” “yeah” said Jack “but where are we going” “Origin” said Sam “Sarah is more than capable enough to move our ship back to triangulum and besides there something there I want you to see” “right” said Jack looking puzzled “whatever” “right” said Sam straightening out the flight path of the Heavy Gunship using the joystick before taking the ship into torsion. There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the Heavy Gunship entering torsion. And all that remained where the Heavy Gunship used to be was a cloud of light grey mist. “we will be there in about an hour”

After flying for 59 minutes Sam turned towards Jack and began to explain the Purpose of their trip to origin. “Ok” said Sam “we are headed to origin because there is someone that I would like you to meet” “ooh” said Gemini “who” “you’ll see” said Sam “after all its not long till we get there now.” “ok then” said Gemini I look forward to getting there.” Suddenly the heavy gunship began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the cockpit . At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the heavy gunship arrived in position in a high orbit above origin.

Suddenly the comms system sprung to life. And Sam put her hand up towards the top of the canopy and flicked the switch to accept the incoming communication “Samantha Charles Eden we are expecting you” said a flight controller at Origin command over the transcom “please proceed to do at docking port 133427” “understood” said Sam over the transcom ”proceeding to docking port 133427” suddenly Sam pulled back on the throttle to 0% before spinning the ship around to face the other direction. As she did this Origin came into view in the canopy above them and they found themselves looking up towards the planets surface. Then just 4 seconds later Sam once again pushed the throttle to 100%.

This began there de orbit burn and the Heavy Gunship began shaking a lot due to the thrust from the engine that was now firing backwards. Then 37 seconds later the Heavy Gunship rotated around to once again face forward and just 2 seconds later was covered in plasma trails as the Heavy Gunships armour began to heat up as it entered the atmosphere of Origin.

“right” said Sam flicking a switch above her to engage the energy shield in the canopy so as to reduce some of the light that was shining into the cockpit from the plasma trails that were covering the outside of the Heavy Gunship “we are entering the atmosphere” “so Sam” said Gemini as the Heavy Gunship continued its fiery decent towards Origin “why are we here : you know at Origin” “it’s quite simple really” said Sam as She pulled the joystick towards her pulling the ship upwards before adjusting the throttle to slow there decent. “we are here to ensure that the part of humanity’s DNA that provides resistance against the scourge is still working before the final assault on the scourge Shard World : well that and Curing Gemini of the interaction she had with the scourge a while back.” “wait a second “ said Gemini “that would break that weird link I have with the scourge right” “yep” Said Sam as she levelled out the Heavy gunship so it could burn off its remaining speed “that’s the general idea : it’s too much of a liability to leave it how it is.” “ah” said Gemini as the last of the plasma dissipated from the outside of the Heavy Gunship. “fair enough” As the plasma had dissipated Sam flicked a switch above her and as a result the energy shield in the canopy was disengaged so as to give them a view of the planet ahead. The view of origin was

spectacular. There was hundreds of thousands of ships docked in a huge docking trench ahead of them that ran deep into the planet's surface. On either side there was a huge area of grassland which contrasted nicely against the deep purple sky and the bright green star that was overhead.

"Samantha Charles Eden" said a flight controller at Origin command over the transcom "you are clear for final approach to the docking trench" "understood" said Sam over the transcom "entering final approach to the docking trench destination docking port 133427" "Samantha Charles Eden we read you loud and clear" said a flight controller at Origin command over the transcom "final approach confirmed destination docking port 133427 dock on contact" "understood" said Sam dropping the Heavy Gunship down into the docking trench "destination docking port 133427 dock on contact"

As the Heavy Gunship flew past the other ships you could see the glow from the Heavy Gunships engines being reflected in the armour of the surrounding ships. "right" said Sam lowering the throttle further "we are almost there" and with that the Heavy Gunship made a tight turn to the right down a side tunnel before arriving in a huge hanger bay.

Sam then proceeded to fly over to docking port 133427. Once the Heavy Gunship was above docking port 133427. A huge amount of dust was thrown into the air due to the amount of downwash from the 16 huge propellers separated into 8 propeller wells and 6 large fusion engines on the edges of the heavy gunship. The rear engine pulsed a few more times and then the heavy gunship began to land using its fusion engines noticeably heating up docking port 133427 that was located just below the Heavy Gunship. Finally the heavy gunship extended its landing gear before landing with a huge bang on the edge of docking port 133427. Suddenly there was a series of bangs as the top of the docking port formed an airtight seal with the hull of the ship. Then there was a hiss of escaping air and the boarding ramp was lowered on to the ground of docking port 133427.

"right were down" said Sam pushing up the top half of her acceleration seat up before getting up and turning to leave the cockpit. "you coming then" "err yeah" said Gemini as she too pushed up the top half of her acceleration seat and after standing up walked over to Sam "Jack you coming" "nah" said Jack "I would rather not : I think I will wait for you here : so try not to be too long" "ok said Sam "I will try : but no promises" "ok" said Jack "see you in a bit then" "ok then" said Sam "by for now" and with that Sam and Gemini walked out of the cockpit along the inside of the ship and down the ramp. Ahead of them was a huge piece of diamond glass that the staff in the docking trench were moving off a transport ship towards a lift that would take it deeper into the planet. "so how far down are we" said Gemini as they walked along the highly polished floor of the hanger bay. "you know down here" "oh" said Sam as they began to near a gravimetric acceleration tube that would take them further into Origin "quite far : I would say around 14,000 meters : but we are heading deeper down" "right" said Gemini "got it" "and here we are" said Sam stepping into the gravimetric acceleration tube. "follow me" and with that Gemini followed Sam into the gravimetric acceleration tube and together they journeyed further into Origin.

The second that they had stepped out of the gravimetric acceleration tube they could see a technician waiting for them. "I assume" said the Technician "that you're here to cure Gemini and to inspect the Scourge resistance on the DNA" "yep" said Sam "that's why I am here" "very good" said the Technician "what would you like to do first" "err" said Sam taking a moment to think "cure Gemini" "understood" said the Technician turning to face his right "this way"

(solving the problem)

(Origin
cloning facility)

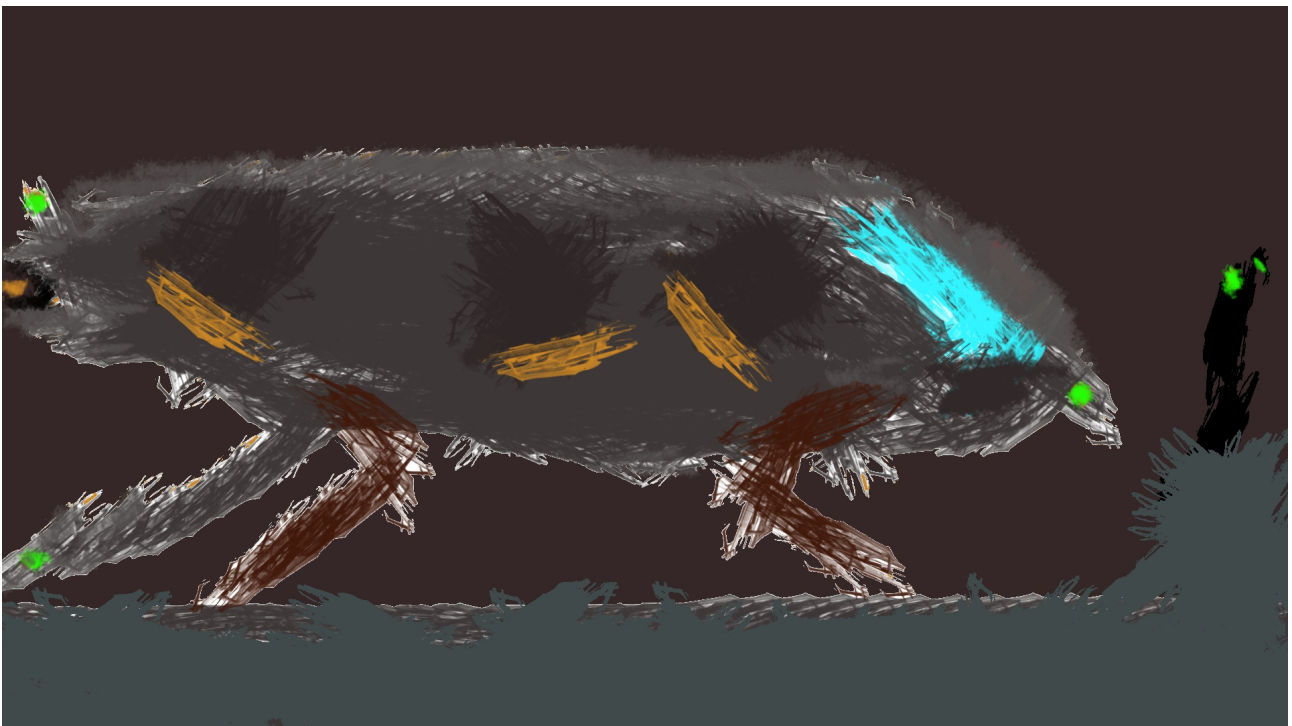
"well" said the Technician as they walked down a side corridor that provided a spectacular view of one of origins many cloning facilities. The view facility was a huge collection of skyscrapers that stretched for millions of meters horizontally and from floor to ceiling in most areas with some of the tallest buildings being 43,000 meters tall. "I have been thinking about the problem and I may have a solution" "ok" said Sam walking alongside the Technician "cool" "I think" said the Technician leading them down a side corridor towards the main labs" that the easiest way to solve the problem is to reset the blood and Nanoswarm inside Gemini back to its default state : this should then break the link between the Scourge and Gemini." "will it be permanent" said Gemini following the technician down the corridor towards the main labs "I mean it's kinda pointless if it isn't "true" said the technician turning down a smaller side corridor to his lab. "well were almost there" "good good" said Sam turning to follow him down the side corridor "as I was starting to get tired of walking" "oh come on" said Gemini having to sprint slightly in order to keep up with Sam "we have only been going like 3 minutes" "right" said the technician as he arrived to the door to his lab "technically I only need to see Gemini : but if you want to join us you may" "I will join you" said Sam "as we need you to show us to the DNA so we can inspect the Scourge resistance" "very well" said the Technician tapping the access code into the keypad next to the door. This caused the door to open with a hiss as air from inside came rushing out of the gap caused by the open door "and in we go"

The technician stepped through the doorway and was followed just a few seconds later by Sam and Gemini. Then suddenly the presence of the Technician in his lab mad the lab spring to life. And all sorts of equipment began to deploy from the wall floor and ceiling. They walked over to a chair that was covered in biogel and the Technician motioned for Gemini to sit down in it. "right" said the Technician "don't worry I do this all the time" "really" said Gemini "you do" "yeah" said the Technician "you would be surprised how common the scourge infecting humans is : anyway you ready Gemini" "errr" said Gemini unsure of what to say and as a result sounding more like she was asking a question "yeah" "right then" said the Technician pulling down a holo screen on its mount on the ceiling and tapping the icon to being the treatment "let's do this" suddenly out of the chair that Gemini was sitting in 8 living cables grew out and manoeuvred themselves into the implants on Gemini's back. "and now" said the technician tapping another icon on the holo screen "we solve the problem" suddenly Gemini could feel her blood and Nanoswarm draining out of the living cables whilst being instantly replaced through another living cable. "so what happening here" asked Sam "it's pretty interesting" "well its quite simple really" said the technician as he moved a slider on the holo screen to fine tune the blood and Nanoswarm flow "I am replacing the infected blood and Nanoswarm and sending them to be incinerated and replacing them with new uninfected blood and Nanoswarm." "err" said Gemini "how much longer is this going to take" "oh" said the Technician "not too much longer we just passed 50%"

"well at least we are bothering to do this" said Sam "otherwise you could have the connection with the scourge for years maybe permanently" "yeah" said Gemini "i suppose it does need to be sorted" "so" said the Technician "what's next for you then" "oh" said Sam crossing her arms "not much : well might there might be" "right" said the Technician sounding interested "can you elaborate" "nope" said Sam "its classified" "right" said the Technician "well I am done" and with that he reached up to the holo screen and tapped the icon to end the treatment. Suddenly Gemini could feel the living cables retracting out of the implants in her back. Gemini then proceeded to

stand up and almost immediately fell over. But Sam caught her as she fell and scooped her up into her arms. "well thanks" said Sam holding Gemini "Look I got to take Gemini back to our heavy gunship but after that we can go and see the DNA resistance" "ok cool" said the Technician I will show you back to your ship" "thanks" said Sam moving Gemini a little higher up in her arms to make her easier to carry "which way then" "this way" said the technician walking out the door to his lab "follow me"

(Location unknown
Heavy gunship)



Jack was sitting in the cockpit and was musically tapping his fingers against the heavy gunships flight instruments. Suddenly there was a loud and urgent tapping noise that was coming from the back of the ship. Hearing this Jack walked out of the cockpit and upon seeing Sam carrying Gemini up the boarding ramp ran over to help. "is she ok" said Jack sounding concerned "err Sam" "yeah" said Sam carrying Gemini up the rest of the boarding ram and into the cockpit "she's fine : slight reaction thats all :ask her if you must" "Gemini" said Jack having followed Sam into the cockpit "you ok" "yeah" said Gemini "was a little disorientated but now I am ok" "ok" said Sam to Gemini as she placed her into one of the cockpits acceleration seats. "you stay here with Jack ok : I will be back really soon" "you don't have to say it like that" Said Gemini as Sam let go of her so she was sitting in the acceleration seat "i am perfectly capable" "yeah" said Sam "I know you are I am just overly protective of you and Jack thats all : anyway I wont be long" "cool" said Jack as Sam left the cockpit and walked back down the ramp" " see you in a bit then"

"oh hello " said the technician " you ready" "yep" said Sam "lets go" "alright then" said the

Technician turning around to face the gravimetric acceleration tube “follow me “ “yeah” said Sam following him towards the gravimetric acceleration tube “lead the way” “so” said Sam following the technician across the hanger bay “have you fixed the DNA then” “yes” said the technician as he reached the gravimetric acceleration tube “we completed it last night” “good” said Sam as she stepped into the gravimetric acceleration tube “then I can have a look at it” “yeah” said the technician stepping into the gravimetric acceleration tube “this way” after a few moments they saw the some of the labs of origin pass them on the other side of the gravimetric acceleration tube. They however continued to travel further into the depths of Origin. Then after a few minutes suddenly they arrived on a small platform that was overlooking the genetic Foundry. Ahead of them were millions of genetic computers that were used to compute the code for the DNA used by humanity. “wow” said Sam as she looked down from a small platform at the genetic computers below. “that some view” “yeah” said the technician “it sure is” “right then” said Sam “lets get done there and take a look” “right” said the Technician turning to his right and running over to a set of steep steps “follow me” “alright” said Sam following the technician “lets take a look” Sam and the technician hurried down the steps and past a huge row of genetic computers that were being cooled by a huge mass of living pipes that were supplying the computers with blood. “right” said the Technician “almost there now” “alright” said Sam as they neared a huge genetic computer at the end of the room “cool”

“so” said the Technician “do you know what your looking for or have you just been instructed to find out for someone else.” “yeah its ok” said Sam as they reached the genetic computers holographic control console “I know what I am looking for” “ok” said the Technician “cool” “right” said Sam as she brought up a 3d holographic representation of the human genetic code. “well it should be here somewhere” “it’s here” said the technician “you just need to navigate to section D-3366-782” “right ok” said Sam flinging her hand across the holographic console sending the 3d holographic representation flying through the air. It cycled through massive amounts of code before finally stopping at the section that Sam had come to see. “and open” said Sam as she tapped the 3d holographic representation of the human genetic code. Suddenly the genetic computers in the genetic foundry went to full speed and even though they were being cooled by the blood that was supplying the computers with nurturance and acting as a coolant. The air in the Genetic foundry heated up noticeably “not long now” “so” asked the Technician “have you found it” “I think so” said Sam as the correct strand of DNA appeared floating in front of the console “oh yeah I found it” “so” said the Technician “does it look good” “oh yeah” said Sam looking at the strand of DNA on the holographic console. “It looks great” “so” said the technician “I take it your satisfied with the stand of DNA that you came to see” “yeah” said Sam tapping the holographic console and the genetic computers went back to normal operating temperature and the 3d hologram of the human genetic code disappeared. “and I have got to say that the DNA looks great overall as well : great job” “thanks” said the Technician “and best of luck on your future endeavours” “thanks” said Sam turning to walk back to her ship “oh and the and well done on the DNA”

(chapter 25)
(final engagement nearing)

(Location unknown
Heavy gunship)

Once Sam had returned to the cockpit of the heavy gunship she sat down in the acceleration seat. And retracted the boarding ramp. "right" said Sam placing one hand on the heavy gunships joystick and the other hand on the throttle "lets get into orbit" and with that Sam flew the ship of origins atmosphere and obtained orbit around the planet. "Sam" said Gemini who had recovered and was now using the holographic console to monitor the communications that were being broadcast throughout the universe "we have an incoming transmission from Triangulum" "understood" said Sam "onscreen"

(triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
lws system
Trei 111
Interstellar command)

"aah Eden" said Nova looking into the holographic display that was showing the inside of the heavy gunship. "What's the status on the Scourge resistance" "its fine" said Sam "its in place and I have confirmed that it is functional" "understood" said Nova "I am just finishing final preparations for the assault" "understood" said Sam "where are we going to need to from up" "head to Triangulum" said Nova "our fleets are going to regroup there before heading to Andromeda to meet up with the human and Aurora fleets then we will proceed to the location of the Scourge Shard world which we retrieved from the previous mission" "understood" said Sam "we are initiating torsion" "understood" said Nova "fly safe"

(Location unknown
Heavy gunship)

"right" said Sam "initiating torsion." Suddenly There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the Heavy Gunship entering torsion. And all that remained where the Heavy Gunship used to be was a cloud of light grey mist. "dam" said Gemini "lost the signal" "that's to be expected" said Sam "after all we are in torsion." "then" said Jack "let's have a snack" "fine" said Sam looking over her shoulder "as long as I don't have to cook" "you won't have to cook" said Gemini half laughing and handing Sam some dried fruit "here I mean its not that tasty but I guess this will do" "yeah" said Sam her mouth full of the fruit she was snacking on she then offered the fruit to Jack "you want some" "yeah alright" said Jack "just try not to speak with your mouth full as I can barely hear you" "oh" said Sam before quickly swallowing the fruit "sorry" "that's ok" said Jack sitting back in his acceleration seat and trying to relax "but how long until we reach Triangulum" "not too long" Said Sam as the compressed spacetime continued to rush past the cockpits canopy "shouldn't be longer than an hour" "ok" said Jack "cool"

(Triangulum

Urw Dust cloud
titan core shipyard
"heavy gunship cockpit)

Suddenly the heavy gunship exited torsion and out of the window billions of Titan Core ships were holding position around the shipyard. "wow" said Sam as she looked at the fully mobilised Titan core fleet that had formed up and were now holding position in the Urw Dust cloud. "now that's impressive." "the 38-9C is ready in deeper inside the Urw Dust cloud " announced Gemini " we will have to fly deeper into the Titan Core fleet to reach the ship" "understood" said Sam pushing the heavy gunships throttle to 100% "moving in"

Sam proceeded to expertly fly the heavy gunship through the Titan Core fleet. Dropping under ships , flying over ships and adjusting the throttle accordingly. "incoming transmission" said Gemini "would you like it displayed on the cockpit canopy" "yeah" said Sam "go for it" "right" said Gemini tapping several commands into her holographic console. Immediately the holographic display on the heavy gunships canopy activated and it proceeded to display the inside of the bridge of the 38-9C with Sarah sitting in the captain's chair "done" "sir" said Sarah "the 38-9C is ready for deployment and we await your arrival" "understood" said Sam "how long until the fleet moves out" "not long sir" said Sarah crossing her arms "the fleets already aligned with Andromeda" "understood" said Sam as she piloted the Heavy gunship around the engines of the December. "we will be docking shortly" "very good sir" said Sarah "see you then" and with that Gemini disengaged the communication link between the heavy gunship and the 38-9C. Suddenly the holographic image of the bridge of the 38-9C disappeared leaving just the view of the Titan Core fleet that now surrounded them. The Titan Core fleet was holding position using quick pulses of there main engines to maintain there positions in the Urw Dust cloud. "well" said Sam as she reduced the throttle to 25% in order to help slow them down in preparation for docking with the 38-9C. "not long now" "so then" said Jack "how long until we dock" "about 30 seconds" said Sam as the side 38-9C came into view ahead of them. "we are entering final approach now" "understood" said Jack "cool"

(Triangulum
Urw Dust cloud
titan core shipyard
"38-9C"
bridge)

"Sarah" said the Tactical officer "captain Eden is on final approach and will be aboard shortly" "very good" said Sarah "are we aligned" "yes sir" said the helm officer "we are aligned and ready for torsion" "very good" said Sarah looking at the holographic planning table which showed the Titan Core fleet holding position awaiting the command to initiate torsion "any updates" "one sir from Nova "said the comms officer "it says that the fleet will be divided into 3 groups each with a different Fleet Commander." "Right then" said Sarah "who's commanding" "Nova will be commanding the main fleet for Titan Core" said the comms officer "with Sapphire and captain Eden commanding the support fleets." "very good" said Sarah as she watched the heavy gunship with Sam Jack and Gemini on-board dock with the 38-9C. "Captain Eden has docked" said the tactical officer "She's along with Jack and Gemini are headed to the bridge right now"

"understood" said Sarah walking over to the comms officer "send a message to Nova and let him know we are ready for deployment" "yes sir" said the comms officer tapping away on his holographic console. "Nova has been informed sir" "very good" said Sarah as she walked over to the bridges gravimetric acceleration tube to greet Sam Jack and Gemini."

Suddenly Sam Jack and Gemini stepped out of the gravimetric acceleration tube and onto the bridge. "Captain on deck" announced Sarah "Captain Eden you have the bridge." "Thank you Sarah" Said Sam walking over to the captain's chair and sitting down "I assume we are about to depart for Andromeda" "yes sir" said Sarah picking up her tablet off the top of a holographic console "we are awaiting Nova's command to initiate torsion" "ok" said Sam "in that case helm can you put us into torsion the second Nova says" "yes sir" said the helm officer "awaiting response from Nova"

"if its alright" said Jack "me and Gemini are going to go back to our apartment and start cooking a proper meal" "Sam" said Gemini "I am going to go and get some rest to so will see you in a bit" "understood" said Sam "see you in a bit" "situation update" said the comms officer "Nova has just issued a fleet order to initiate torsion to Andromeda" "understood" said the helm officer as the fleet started to enter torsion all around the 38-9C "initiating torsion"

Suddenly There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the 38-9C entering torsion. At the same time the ship gave a huge lurch forward and the contents of the bridge lurched backwards by a few centimetres thanks to inertia dampeners. Leaving just the view from the bridge window that showed the blackness of the compressed space-time caused by using faster than light technology's.

then after just a few seconds in torsion the 38-9C Suddenly began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the bridge. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the ship arrived in Andromeda where there UUDF and Aurora fleets were waiting already aligned with the Shard world "dust is clearing" said the Helms officer. "and we have arrived in Andromeda : flight time 5 seconds" "awesome work Helm" said Sam "now get us aligned" "yes sir" said the Helm officer "adjusting alignment" "very good" said Sam "prepare to initiate torsion once Nova gives the command" "understood" said Sarah "the 38-9C is ready for torsion : awaiting the command from Nova"

"very good" said Sam as she walked over to the 38-9C's holographic planing table "just make sure that we are ready to initiate torsion once Nova gives the order" "yes sir" said Sarah as she stood next to Sam "very good Sir"

(chapter 26) ***(the plan)***

(Andromeda
Rock military installation
Titan Core operations and debriefing room)

"all ships this is fleet command" Said Nova over the transom "all ships are clear for Torsion" "you heard Nova" said Sam pointing straight ahead "lets go" "yes Sir" said the Helm officer tapping commands into his holographic console "engaging torsion"

Suddenly There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the 38-9C entering torsion. At the same time the ship gave a huge lurch forward and the contents of the bridge lurched backwards by a few centimetres thanks to inertia dampeners. On the holographic planing table Sam could see Sapphires starship the December as well as the rest of Sapphires dreadnought fleet. To the sides of the 38-9C the holographic planing showed the lead Starships of the The Titan Core, Aurora and UUDF fleets flying in formation alongside the 38-9C.

"I assume that the rest of the fleets are behind us" asked Gemini "right" "yeah" Said Sam "the other starship are following in close behind us" "Sir" asked Sarah "what are the rules of engagement for the upcoming fight" "Well Sarah" said Sam looking over towards where Sarah was standing "simply put : if its Scourge we shoot it :and if its not Scourge we don't Shoot it" "understood Sir" said Sarah taking a few short notes on her tablet "will do" "So" said Gemini as she moved over to stand next to Sam "how long till we arrive at the Shard world" "about 17 hours" said Jack as he searched through 3D holographic maps on the holographic planing table "as it doesn't seem to be too far away from our universe" "yeah true" said Sam before looking over at the holographic planing table "hey Jack can you put that back as I was using that" "oh" said Jack as he quickly returned the holographic planing table "sorry" "it's ok" said Sam gesturing towards Jack "I don't mind" "so" said Gemini "what's the plan" "its simple" said Sam "destroy the Scourge Shard world and in doing so secure our universe against further attacks" "right" said Gemini "got it"

"captain Eden" said Sarah "The 38-9C is in torsion and the Torsion field is stable" "very good" said Sam getting up from the captains chair and turning towards her , Jack and Gemini apartment "right I am going to go and cook some onion soup : anyone else want some" "yeah" said Gemini Turning to follow Sam "I mean I am pretty hungry" "cool" Said Sam walking over to the door to her apartment "I will get go and get started" and with that Sam tapped in the right code into the door and stepped through the door. "right" " said Jack following Sam through the door to the apartment "I should probably go and help :Gemini I will come and let you know when we are done so you can join us" "ok cool" said Gemini "I mean really don't want to stay on the bridge for 17 hours anyway" "what" said Sarah looking over at Gemini "you are just going to leave me here" "yep" said Gemini as she sprinted towards the apartment her hair getting blown around behind her as she ran "pretty much" "well "said Sarah half laughing as she sat down in the captains chair "I guess I have the bridge"

(location unknown

"38-9C"

Sam Jack and Gemini's apartment)

"so" said Jack walking up to Sam who was standing next to the apartment's holographic planning table. Holding a bowl of onion soup "so what's the plan" "do be honest" Said Sam as she studied the 3d hologram that was being projected by the holographic planning table. "I have no idea as these scans only show the layout of the system and not the Scourge themselves"

"you know" said Gemini as she joined Sam and Jack around the holographic planning table "I think I have a battleplan" "nice" said Sam looking over to Gemini "what have you got in mind"

"ok so first we ignore the information that we don't have and focus on what we do have: so we force the engagement here" said Gemini pointing to a location on the edge of the asteroid belt that was situated around the Scourge shard world. "that way our larger ships will be out of range

of any weapons fire coming from the shard world” “and the proximity of our fleet to the asteroid field will force them into a close range engagement with their fighters”. Said Sam Thinking out loud “and that’s a fight we will win : it’s a good plan so far” “right” said Gemini pointing at a location that was almost directly above the shard world “then once the fighters have been destroyed we quickly move into position here : and that should allow us to engage the Shard world directly” “that’s not going to work” said Sam looking at the distance between the point Gemini was suggesting and the shard world. “we would be out of range of the Scourge if we positioned ourselves there.” “look” said Gemini “being there has the advantage of being in a dust cloud : and besides it’s only the scourge that will be out of range.” “meaning” asked Sam “what exactly” “the 38-9C has cataclysm missiles” said Gemini “they would be in range” “yeah” said Sam “I see your point : after all we only need one to connect with the scourge shard world to secure victory” “exactly” Said Gemini standing back slightly and crossing her arms “we only need one of the missiles to connect with the shard world and we have multiple cataclysm missiles with us on the 38-9C” “agreed” said Jack “it’s a good plan” “yep” said Sam now looking more confident now there was a plan in place for the upcoming fight “let’s do it”

“look Sam” said Jack “as much as I just want to get started : I think that now would be a good time to get some rest before the fight happens” “yeah” said Gemini “I have to agree with Jack on this one” “ok” said Sam let’s get some rest then”

(chapter 27)

(Clear to engage)

(location unknown

“38-9C”

Sam Jack and Gemini's apartment)

17 hours later the human fleets were about to arrive at the scourge shard world. As a result most of the ships were beginning to prepare their ships for the engagement.

“captain Eden” Said Sarah over the shipcom “please report to the bridge” “it’s go time” said Sam looking both excited and incredibly nervous “I will see you on the bridge” “ok” said Jack as Sam walked through the apartments door and onto the bridge “Gemini you ready” “almost” replied Gemini as she finished putting on her combat boots “right done : let’s go” “ok” said Jack as he followed as she Gemini walked through the apartment door and onto the bridge “lets go”

“hey” said Sam waving them over from the captain’s chair “over here” “Sam come on” Said Sarah looking annoyed “command the ship properly” “look” said Sam now slightly annoyed herself “the 38-9C is my ship and as such I will captain it in my on weird style” “its fine” said Sarah “if you want to do it your way I will support you” “very good” said Sam “now what’s our ETTT” “understood sir” said Sarah taking a quick look at her tablet before saying “estimated time to target is 50 seconds sir” “very good” said Sam “engage tank systems and ready our weapon systems” “yes sir” said Sarah ash she tapped commands into her tablet “the 38-9C is ready to engage the scourge : Captain”

“ok then ”said Sam getting up from the captain’s chair and walking over to the holographic planning table “it’s time for my awesome speech” “yes sir” said Sarah tapping some commands into her tablet “initiating ship wide communication”

"we stand here today" said Sam over the ships communication system. "ready to deliver a crippling blow to the Scourge in the area around our universe : make no mistake what happens today will be written down in history as a success : the day that humanity secured its survival against an hostile species that outnumbered it many times over. : today humanity stands alone : all rivalries set to the side: and together we will obtain victory against the scourge that are threatening our very survival. : together we will stand as one species and secure victory for humanity."

"wow" said Jack looking impressed "that was amazing" "yeah" said Sam standing next to the holographic planning table and crossing her arms "it kinda was" "captain" yelled the helms officer "prepare to drop torsion in 5 seconds"

then after just a few seconds in torsion the 38-9C Suddenly began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the bridge. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the ship arrived in an asteroid field that was orbiting the scourge shard world. "captain" said the helms officer "dust is clearing" "understood" said Sam "hold position until the rest of the fleets arrive" "yes sir" said the helm officer "holding position"

suddenly the holographic planning table was filled with billions of ships as the rest of humanity's fleets exited torsion leaving a huge cloud of light grey mist surrounding the human fleets. "captain Eden" said Sarah looking at her tablet "the scourge are inbound to our current position" "understood" said Sam "get me nova" "yes sir" said the comms officer tapping on his holographic console "right away" "Nova" said Sam once the transcom link had been established with his bridge "I am going to move my fleet into position to engage the shard world directly I need you to engage the scourge in the asteroid field" "understood" replied Nova over the transcom "there's more cover here anyway" "confirmed we're on the move" said Sam as the comms officer terminated the transcom

"captain" said the tactical officer who was monitoring the fleets positions on his holographic console "Nova's fleet has launched fighters and is moving in to engage the scourge in the asteroid belt. : and sapphires fleet is moving to assist Nova's fleet" "understood we need to get into position" said Sam "helm set course 025 by 078" "yes sir" said the helm officer pushing his joystick to the right before pulling it backwards and pushing the 38-9C's throttle to 100% "we are on the move" "Sarah" said Sam as she watched the scourge fleet continued to move into the asteroid belt to engage Nova's fleet "as soon as scourge come into range you are clear to fire upon them" "understood" said Sarah "relaying orders to weapons control" "captain" the scourge have split up" said the Science officer "half are engaging Nova and sapphires fleets in the asteroid belt and half are heading for our fleet" "understood" said Sam keeping a close eye on the holographic planning table "fire when ready" "understood" said Sarah calmly as she tapped commands into her tablet. "engaging" instantly millions of bright blue beams of energy shot out of forward facing Heavy ION cannons equipped to her fleet. They shot across the battlespace and impacted the lead vessel of the scourge fleet with such force that the dreadnought instantly exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal. "good kill" commented Sam "still there's more on the way"

Suddenly Sam's fleet erupted with weapons fire as the fleet began to engage the scourge with all the firepower they had. The scourge responded and within seconds they were firing massive volumes of acid and spines across the battle space. "captain" said Sarah "our fleet is under fire" "understood" said Sam looking at the holographic planning table "keep firing" "yes sir" said Sarah as she sent a huge salvo of heavy singularity missiles flying across space towards the scourge fleet.

“engaging” just seconds later The heavy singularity missiles impacted the scourge fleet the resulting implosion ripping the scourge ships apart into clouds of blood and crystal. However the although the scourge were taking losses they still had the advantage of higher numbers of ships and as a result were beginning to swarm around Sam’s fleet. “helm” said Sam looking at the holographic planning table “are we in position” “nowhere near sir ” said the helm officer “we are probably about 20% of the way there”

“understood” said Sam “Sarah said Sam” what’s the status of the other fleets” “they pushing through the astroroid field slowly but there tanks are holding” “very good” said Sam “keep up the damage” “yes sir” said Sarah tapping rapid fire commands into her tablet and destroying a carrier with Heavy ION Cannons in the process causing it to explode into a cloud of blood and crystal “continuing to engage”

“captain” said the tactical officer as a huge volley of acid impacted the hull of the 38-9C “the scourge are launching fighters” “understood” said Sam as she walked back over to the captain’s chair and sat down. “are we able to launch ours” “negative” said the Tactical officer “the scourge would overwhelm them” “well there currently overwhelming us” said Sam “how about drones” “yeah” said the tactical officer as a huge volley of spines impacted the 38-9C “that would work” “right then” said Sam “launch drones” “yes sir” said the tactical officer “launching” suddenly the entire fleet launched drones and the drones moved into range and began to destroy the smaller scourge ships sending blood and crystal floating in all directions.

“captain” said the helm officer “we are 40% of the way to the objective” “understood” said Sam “keep up the good work” “yeah” said the tactical officer “and let’s hope that the scourge lack any ASSC’s on the shard world.” “if they do” said Sam “when will we be in range of the ASSC’s” “very soon” said the Tactical officer “so let’s be careful”

“agreed” said Gemini crossing her arms “although we do still need to be careful.” “look” said Sam “I am being careful ok ” “ok” said Gemini as another salvo of heavy singularity missiles shot out of the 38-9C and impacted a small group of scourge frigates that were trying to move in behind them. Causing them to implode into blood and crystal “fine”

(chapter 28)
(Shard world)

(location unknown
December
Bridge)

“captain” said the tactical officer as the bridge was lit up by a flash of bright blue light as the December Fired its Heavy ION Cannons at the scourge fleet head of them. Causing the asteroids to explode into a cloud of rock and the scourge ships to exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal “captain Eden’s fleet if making progress and have just covered 40% of the distance towards their objective” “very good” said Sapphire standing behind the helms officer and looking at the holographic console that the helms officer was using to pilot the December “keep me updated” “yes sir” said the Tactical officer “will do”

(location unknown
"Endless voyage"
bridge)

"Eden" said the tactical officer "we are taking fire" "well" said Eden her avatar casting light across the bridge from where she was sitting in the captain's chair "then fire back at them" "sir" said the tactical officer tapping a few commands into his holographic console "yes sir" suddenly there was a thump that could be felt throughout the Endless voyage as it launched a huge wave of Singularity missiles towards the scourge fleet. The missiles crossed the distance between the Endless voyage and the Scourge that were flying through the astoroid field in 12 seconds before detonating. Suddenly the missiles imploded causing singularities to appear. This caused chaos for the scourge ships as some got dragged into the singularities while others got destroyed or heavily damaged as asteroids were pulled into the side of them with huge amounts of force. Seconds later the singularities collapsed leaving a huge cloud of blood, crystal and chunks of asteroids where the scourges were just a few seconds before.

(location unknown
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"captain Eden" yelled the tactical officer as the 38-9C was hit with a huge spine fired from a ASSC cannon on the surface of the scourge Shard world "armour is down to 35% across the whole ship : sir we can't take another hit like that." "understood" said Sam running over to look at the Tactical officers holographic console "Sarah boost power to the Armour tank : and helm take us out of the range of the Scourge ASSC cannons" "yes sir" said the helm officer "moving to hold position outside the firing range of the scourge ASSC cannons" "captain" said Sarah looking at her tablet "it seems that the scourge have placed part of their fleet in a low orbit of the Shard world : my guess is its to deny the use of drop pods to reach the ASSC cannons" "yeah agreed" said Sam walking back over to the holographic planning table just a huge blob of acid impacted the 38-9C's armour sending the armour down to 20% "fortunately I have a plan : we destroy the scourge ships that are directly above the ASSC cannons which will then de-orbit and crash into the ASSC cannons on the ground." "that's a good idea" said Gemini standing next to Sam "but its not going to work" "and why" said Sam as another salvo of singularity missiles were launched alongside multiple Heavy ION Cannon shots "is that" "look" said Gemini as she touched one of the ships in orbit around the Scourge Shard world. Causing it to expand to fill the whole of the area above the holographic planning table with a 3D rotating holographic model of the ship "you see the bits I have highlighted in blue" "yeah" said Sam looking at the blue shapes near the back of the holographic model of the ship as the scourge fleet in the background exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal "I see them" "well" said Gemini crossing her arms and pointing to the blue shapes "if I am not mistaken these are countermeasures against our missiles. And we both know that Heavy ION Cannons are not effective at that kind of range" "so" said Jack looking interested in the conversation "what do you propose" "well" said Gemini "due to the ships significant external defences and the fact that we can't get close enough to use our Heavy ION Cannons. I propose that we board there ships with fast moving Heavy Gunships and destroy the ships from the inside" "agreed" Said Sam "let's do it" "understood" said Sarah tapping commands into her tablet "preparing boarding teams" "our boarding teams will need support" said Sam "make sure that you launch drones , fighters and corvettes to cover the Heavy Gunships" "and what are you going to do" said Sarah "fly with them" "oh yeah" replied Sam turning to face the bridge's gravimetric

acceleration tube "Sarah you have the bridge : Gemini your with me" "oh" said Gemini quickly "ok" "right" said Sam as she walked over to the bridge's gravimetric acceleration tube "Jack make sure Sarah doesn't scratch my new ship ok" "right" said Jack as Gemini began to sprint after Sam "got it" "hey" said Sarah half laughing "I am not that bad am it" "not yet" said Sam as she stepped into the bridge's gravimetric acceleration followed immediately after by Gemini "not yet"

(location unknown
December
Bridge)

"captain" said the comms officer "Sam it preparing to board and destroy the ships in orbit around the shard world. Causing them to de-orbit and crash into the ASSC Cannons on the ground" "understood" said Sapphire sitting in the captain's chair" and how are we doing" "sir" said the Tactical officer "we are moving deeper into the asteroid field and the scourge presence seems to be lower than it was a few minutes ago" "very good" said Sapphire "and what about Nova" "he is holding position behind us" said the Tactical officer" and is in a position to be able to stop the scourge from closing in behind us" "awesome" said Sapphire "keep up the good work"

(location unknown
"38-9C"
Heavy Gunship launch bay)

"right" said Sam as she stepped onto the deck of the Heavy Gunship launch bay "let's get a Heavy Gunship and go" "ok" said Gemini looking at the 1000's of Heavy Gunships that were docked in the launch bay "which one" "that one" said Sam as fully armed troops began to pour out of the many gravimetric acceleration tubes in the Heavy Gunship launch bay and run towards the Heavy gunships "as it looks the newest" "ok" said Gemini as the troops ran up the boarding ramps of the heavy gunships "let's get ready then" "ok" said Sam running up the Boarding ramp alongside Gemini before running into the cockpit and pulling sitting down the pilots acceleration seat "let's do it" "right" said Gemini as she sat down in the nearest acceleration seat in the cockpit. Before her and Sam pulled the top half of their acceleration seats down. "ready" "cool" said Sam closing the door to the cockpit "now we are just waiting on the troops that will be riding in the back"

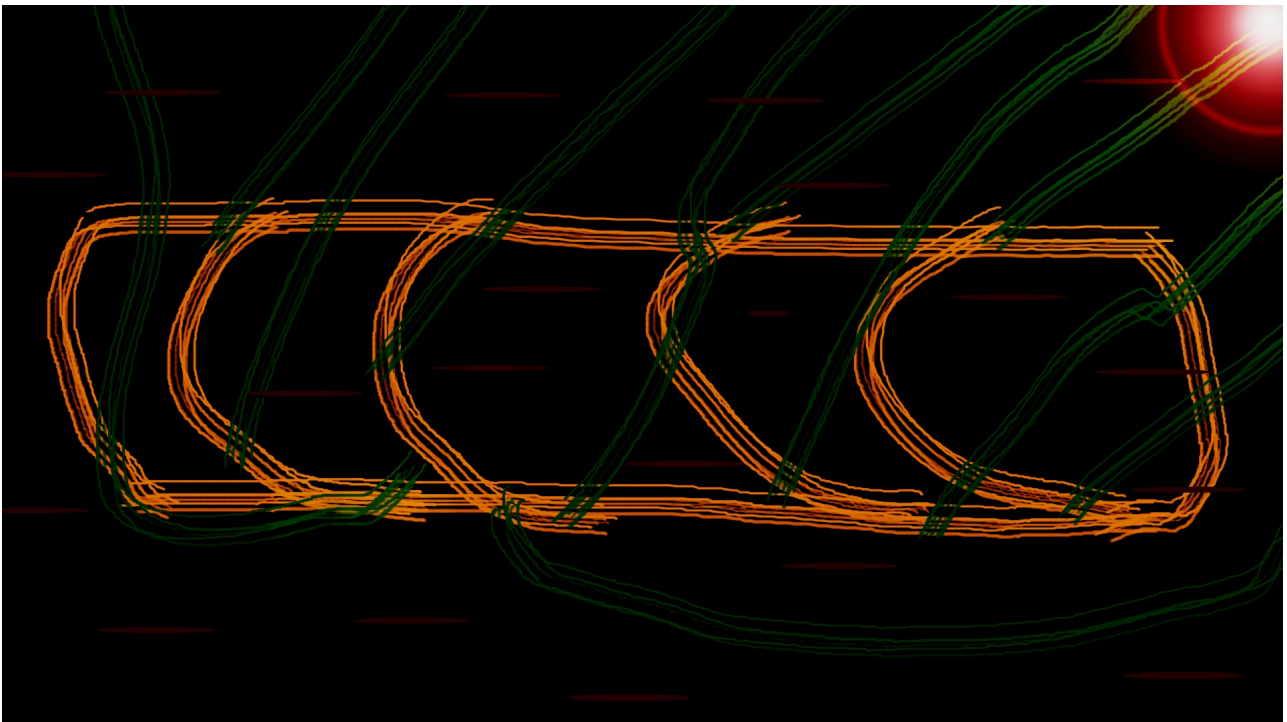
"and here they are" said Gemini as the troops that had been assigned to their Heavy Gunship ran up the boarding ramp and sat down in the acceleration seats in the back and pulled down the top half's of their acceleration seats "so let's go" "understood" said Sam placing one hand on the joystick and the other on the Heavy Gunships throttle "ramp up" "ramps up" said Gemini as she tapped away on her holographic console "ready for launch" "in that case" said Sam pushing the throttle to 100% "let's go" suddenly the Heavy Gunship shot out of the 38-9C's Heavy Gunship launch bay retracted its landing gear and dived down towards the left before Sam managed to align the Heavy Gunship with the scourge ships in orbit around the Shard world. Behind Sam and Gemini's Heavy Gunship Sam's fleet had launched millions of fighters, corvettes and Heavy Gunships that proceeded to form up into a formation behind Sam and Gemini's Heavy gunship"

(chapter 29)
(boarding the scourge fleet)

(location unknown
December
Bridge)

"captain" Said the Tactical officer "Sam's fleet has just launched there boarding teams" "very good" said Sapphire as the December fired off 1000's of Heavy ION Cannons at the scourge ahead of there fleet "let's keep pushing through this asteroid belt" "captain" said the Helms officer as the Heavy ION Cannons impacted the scourge Ships causing them to explode into a cloud of blood and crystal "why are we flying through this really densely packed astroroid belt" "good question" said Sapphire "we are doing it so that we have some cover from the scourge ASSC cannons" "what" asked the helm officer "can they not track us in the asteroid belt" "nope" said Sapphire "it would seem that they require a line of sight in order to use there ASSC Cannons : so no line of sight no ASSC cannons firing at us and our fleet" "ah" said the Helm officer "got it"

(location unknown
Shard World
Heavy Gunship)



"well" said Sam as she adjusted the flight path of the Heavy Gunship with the joystick "we are in orbit" "ant not far off the Scourge fleet" said Gemini looking out the cockpits canopy at the Scourge fleet that was orbiting the Shard World below them "there it is ahead of us" "yep I see it" said Sam switching to transcom " this is Eden to all boarding teams : brake off and head to targets" suddenly the Carriers in the scourge fleet below the boarding fleet began to launch fighters. And Seeing this the fighters, corvettes and drones that were covering the Heavy Gunship Fleet accelerated off towards the Fighters in order to intercept them. Then 3 seconds later

all of the Heavy Gunships broke formation and shot off towards the ships that they had been instructed to board”

“Sam” said Gemini looking at the Heavy Gunships sensors “we were closing in on the scourge carriers” “cool” said Sam as she expertly piloted the heavy gunship around a huge cloud of acid that had been fired towards the 38-9C “what’s our ETTT” “32 seconds” replied Gemini “get ready” “oh don’t worry” replied Sam as she looked over her shoulder towards Gemini “we got this” “right then” said Gemini Sounding unconvinced “if you say so” “alright team” said Sam as they passed under the scourge carrier they were to board.

“prepare to breach” suddenly Sam rotated the ship so it faced the underside of the scourge carrier before flying upwards and anchoring the ship to its hull. “stand by for contact” said Sam flicking a switch on the top of the cockpits canopy to engage the boarding system. “cutting through the hull now” suddenly there was a loud burning noise as the ION cannons on the underside of the Heavy Gunship began to burn through the side of the scourge carrier. “right” said Sam getting out of her acceleration seat and walking out the cockpit. “let’s get ready” “ok” said Gemini following Sam out of the cockpit “ready” “cool” said Sam as the burning noise got louder “sounds like we are almost through” “my team will go first” said the troops commander “we will proceed to our objective then regroup here” “understood” said Sam “we will let you go first” “err” said the troop commander “you sure you two will be ok” “oh yeah” said Sam “I mean myself alone would be enough of a challenge for the scourge to deal with” “very well” said the troop commander as the burning noise disappeared “see you back here in 15 minutes” “understood” said Sam as the troop commander opened the door in the Heavy Gunships floor and her team dropped through it. “good luck”

(location unknown
December
Bridge)

“Captain” said the comms officer as the December got hit by another huge blob of acid “Sam and the boarding teams have just entered the scourge carriers.” “understood” said Sapphire as she sat in the captain’s chair “that’s good news : oh and tactical get that dreadnought” “yes sir” said the tactical officer as he shot 200 Heavy Ion cannons at the scourge dreadnought that was holding position in front of the December causing heavy damage. “captain good hit the Scourge dreadnought is venting blood and crystal space.” “very good” said Sapphire “keep going” “sir” said the tactical officer “yes sir”

(location unknown
“38-9C”
Bridge)

“incoming” said the tactical officer as a salvo of spines hit the side of the 38-9C with such force that some of the bridge crew were thrown onto the floor. Then the tactical officer got back up and said down again “major damage captain diverting power to armour repair systems” “Sarah” said Jack “I hate to say it but I think that counts as a scratch” “look” said Sarah “it going to get repaired so no one will know” “ahh” said Jack “you forget that I share an affinity with Sam and Gemini “so they will already know” “fine” said Sarah “you got me”

(location unknown
Shard World orbit
Heavy Gunship)

“right I think we have probably left enough time ” said Sam as she finished putting on her armour before proceeding to ready a lightening rifle by taking it off the magnetic clamps on the wall of the Heavy Gunship “let’s go” “right” said Gemini who had already put on her armour and was holding a lightning rifle “I’m ready” “right” said Sam as she jumped down the hole in the bottom of the Heavy Gunship “let’s go” “ok” said Gemini following sam down through the hole in the bottom of the Heavy Gunship “I got this”

After a few seconds of freefall sam and Gemini found themselves floating in the scourge ship. “right” said Sam looking around “I have two things to say : first apparently the scourge don’t have gravity on their ships which will probably make this harder. : and second “this place is disgusting” “agreed” said Gemini grabbing hold of the side of the living tunnel to stabilise herself “all of this blood and crystal is pretty weird” “right” said Sam “we have a mission to accomplish : we must disable this ship” “strategically speaking” said Gemini “we have three options :one we destroy the Carriers blood transport network : two we disable or destroy the carriers spine : finally we offline the carriers engines and or power generators. “as good as those plans are” said Sam “I have another plan which I think we might go with” “and that is” asked Gemini “what exactly “ do you remember the dark energy pulse back in the freefall shaft” said Sam “if I was to do it near the outside of the ship we could depressurise the entire ship” “yeah but the armours too thick here” said Gemini “you would have to use the carriers acid storage bladders as those are exposed to space” “that’s my plan” said sam “as there’s one of those pretty close to here” “then” said Gemini “let’s do it” “right” said Sam pushing herself off the wall so as to propel herself down the living tunnel. ”let’s go”

(chapter 30)
(Scourge biology)

(location unknown
Shard World orbit
Scourge carrier)

“so” said Gemini floating along the living tunnel alongside Sam “where exactly are we going” “this way” said sam floating along the living tunnel “don’t worry I know for sure that it this way” “err” said Gemini floating alongside sam “how” “well” said Sam “a while back we recovered a whole lot of scourge carriers after a huge fight : it was at that point where Titan Core made 3d holographic models of the layout of the Scourge carriers” “what” said Gemini floating alongside sam “you mean that they don’t deviate from ship to ship” “not that I know of” said Sam as she continued to float down the living tunnel “after all the Scourge must of evolved into that internal layout over many millions :possibly billions of years.” “so” said Gemini grabbing the side of the tunnel before pushing off the side of the living tunnel to gain more speed “you mean that they are unlikely to change” “yes” said Sam before suddenly coming to a stop and putting her arm out to stop Gemini from floating any further forward. “I sense scourge nearby : get ready to engage” “understood” said Gemini readying her lighting rifle “ready”

Suddenly 3 scourge lifeforms came floating down the tunnel towards them. upon seeing Sam and Gemini they began to fire blobs of acid and spines. “get ready” yelled sam as she began to project a shield between her and Gemini and the Scourge. “right engage” suddenly sam and Gemini pulled the triggers on their lightning rifles and with a huge bang the living corridor lit up with blue light as the lightning arced off the walls and made its way towards the scourge lifeforms. Suddenly the lightning made contact with the Scourge lifeforms and discharged so much energy into each one as it arced through them that it caused them to explode leaving a small cloud of blood and fragmented crystal floating in the corridor ahead of them.

“well” said Sam pushing herself off the wall of the living tunnel so as to resume floating down the living tunnel. “that was interesting” “yeah” said Gemini floating alongside Sam so as to be within the protective shield that Sam was projecting “that was : but how far have we still got to go till we get to the objective” “not far” said Sam looking around her “my guess is another few meters at most : I mean carriers have tons of point defence turrets all of which need the acid to fire” “cool” said Gemini floating alongside Sam “being almost done is good” “agreed” said Sam as she floated into the next section of living tunnel that was transparent on the right side. Through which Sam could see huge quantities of acid. “right here we are” “what now” asked Gemini floating alongside a now stationary Sam “we blow it up” “not quite” said Sam “I mean we have to get out too” “but” said Gemini holding onto a nearby living wall “you have a plan right” “oh yeah” said Sam floating over to the transparent membrane that stood between the living tunnel and the acid “I am going to cut into the membrane and fill the inside of it with dark energy” “so” said Gemini as she watched sam carefully cut into the membrane before creating and then injecting a large amount of dark energy. “you’re sure that this will work” “yes” said sam turning around to face back the way that she and Gemini had come just seconds before “oh and we need to leave like right now” “understood” said Gemini as she and sam both did a massive kick off the wall of the living tunnel ”you lead the way” “Sam we are back at the Heavy Gunship” said the troops commander over the trancom “we are just waiting on you” “understood” said Sam floating along the living tunnel at high speed “we are about a minute from your position and will be with you shortly” “understood” said the troops commander over the trancom “see you there”

(location unknown
“38-9C”
Bridge)

“captain” said the comms officer “Sam and Gemini have set the scourge carrier to explode and are on their way back to the Heavy Gunship” very good” said Sarah “keep me updated” “sir” said the comms officer ” yes sir” “great” she’s on the way back” said Jack “ I hate having to hang out on the bridges of ships when Sam’s out on a cool mission” “ah don’t worry” said Sarah “I used to get left of out all the time : always the last person to get picked for a team and so on : then a few years back I found that I was a good team leader by trying : and look where I am now” “yeah” said Jack “but I would still like to be on more missions” “look” said Sarah “you have Sam on your side and you’re the only person in the universe who can say that right now” “wait” asked jack “what do you mean” “what I am saying” said Sarah “is that there are many people throughout the universe that are jealous of the fact that Sam loves you” “yeah I guess your right” said Jack “thanks” “no problem” said Sarah “now if you don’t mind I need to command this ship” “oh right” said Jack “go ahead” “tactical” said Sarah “how are we doing” “very well” said the tactical officer “all scourge ships in the nearby area have been destroyed and we are just waiting for Sam’s return so we can eliminate the scourge Shard world” “very good” said Sarah “keep up the good work” “sir” said the tactical officer ” yes sir”

(location unknown
Shard World orbit
Scourge carrier)

“right” said Sam as she arrived at the hole at the bottom of the Heavy Gunship “were back” “hey Sam” said the troop commander giving Sam a hand up into the Heavy Gunship “were you successful in your mission” “yes” said Sam as the troop commander helped Gemini into the Heavy Gunship “thanks” “right” said Sam looking over towards the troop commander “you ready to leave” “yeah sure” said the troop commander “go for it” “all right” said Sam as she tapped commands into a holographic panel on the wall causing the hole in the floor to be sealed by a plate of Acrperthum

armor. "lets fly" "lead the way" said Gemini following Sam into the Heavy Gunships cockpit "so how long do you think that we have" "what" said Sam as she sat down in the pilots acceleration chair and pulled down the top half of the acceleration chair "you mean till the carrier explodes" "yeah" said Gemini as she sat down into her acceleration chair and pulled down the top half of the acceleration chair "how long" "not long at all" said Sam as she disengaged the Heavy gunship from the scourge carrier before pushing the throttle to 100 percent sending the Heavy Gunship shooting away from the Scourge carrier. "and acid detonation" suddenly behind from behind the Heavy Gunship there was a massive explosion inside the carrier that they had just left resulting in a huge amount of acid ,blood and crystal flying in all directions. Due to the size of the explosion and the Heavy Gunships proximity to it Sam was able to manoeuvre the Heavy Gunship into the explosions shockwave.

"well" said Sam as she was pushed into the back of her seat by the shockwave "this will definitely speed thing up" "agreed" said Gemini as she to was pushed into the back of her seat due to the Shockwave" "hey" said Gemini pointing out of the canopy "look" as Sam manoeuvred the Heavy gunship into line with the 38-9C Sam took a quick glance at the remains of the Scourge carrier fleet as it fell towards the Scourge Shard world. "well" said Sam " lets hope that some of those debris land on a scourge ASSC cannon" "yeah" said Gemini "that would be good"

(location unknown

"38-9C"

Bridge)

"captain" said the science officer "the debris form the destruction of the scourge carriers has neutralised all but one of the Shard worlds ASSC cannons" "very good" said Sarah looking at the holographic planing table "helm take us into a position form which we can launch drop pods towards the Shard worlds Surface" "sir" said the helms officer "yes sir"

(location unknown

December

Bridge)

"captain" said the comms officer "the 38-9C and its supporting fleet is moving into a range from which it can launch drop pods to take out the last ASSC" "very good" said Sapphire sitting down in the captains chair "notify Nova" "yes sir" said the comms officer as the December launched a volley of missiles at the Scourge it the asteroid belt causing them to explode into a cloud of blood and crystal "Notifying Nova now" "and as for the final ASSC" said Sam "I will deal with that myself : can you get my bodyguards to report to the bridge" "yes sir" said the comms officer switching to internal comms "could Amy, Kate and Kim report to the bridge immediately in full combat gear.

"oh" said Sapphire "helm take us over the final ASSC" "sir" said the Helm officer "yes sir"

(location unknown

"38-9C"

Bridge)

"sir" said the comms officer "captain Eden" has just arrived in the hanger bay and is on her way to the bridge with Gemini "understood" Said Sarah "let's wait for her" "sir" said the Comms officer "the December is going to deal with the final ASSC cannon and has ordered all other ships to maintain their distance from the Shard world." "very good" said Sarah "thanks for the update" "captain on deck" announced the tactical officer as Sam and Gemini exited the gravimetric

acceleration tube. "Sarah stands relieved" "welcome back" said Jack as Sarah walked over to greet Sam "oh and Sarah scratched the 38-9C" "what" said Sarah "I did not" "ah don't worry about that" said Sam "I was only joking : so anyway what's happening" "captain" said the comms officer "we have been ordered to hold position by the December" "understood" said Sam "make it happen" "understood" said the Helm officer "holding position" "sir" said the tactical officer "no targets in sight" "understood" said Sam "great work"

(location unknown
December
Bridge)

"reporting as ordered sir" said Kim standing beside the captain's chair along with Amy and Kate "what's the plan" "basically we need to neutralise the remaining ASSC cannon" said Sapphire standing up from the captain's chair "as this will allow our fleets to enter orbit around the Shard world" "so" said Amy "we are enabling the orbital bombardment" "exactly" said sapphire walking towards the gravimetric acceleration tube "Hydrojneiss you have the bridge : Amy ,Kim and Kate follow me" "understood" said Kate as she followed Sapphire towards the gravimetric acceleration tube "what's our mode of transport" "easy" said Sapphire stepping into the gravimetric acceleration tube "we jump" "nice" said Kim following Sapphire into the gravimetric acceleration tube "that will get us there fast" "yeah" said Sapphire "it sure will"

(chapter 31)
(ready for action)

(location unknown
December
Airlock 3R-1453)

"right" said Sapphire putting on her helmet and placing her lightening rifle on the magnetic clamp on her back "ready" "sir" said Kim "were all ready" "then let's do this" said Sapphire as she tapped commands into the airlocks holographic control panel "prepare to jump" suddenly all the air was sucked out of the airlock. Then just seconds later the airlock door opened and the airlock was filled with light generated by the massive space fight that was still raging outside although it was dimmer from their position inside orbit of the Shard world. "Sapphire" said Kim " comms just notified me that we are over the drop zone" "right lets go" said Sapphire sprinting towards the airlocks open door before diving out of the airlock "are we all clear of the December" "yes sir" said Kate over the transcom as she manoeuvred herself so that she was falling besides Sapphire in perfect formation "we are all clear" "right" said Sapphire as she Fell towards the Shard worlds atmosphere "the objective is to destroy the last remaining ASSC on the shard world" "thus enabling the orbital bombardment" said Kate as she fell besides Sapphire "yeah I heard you the first time"

(location unknown
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"captain Eden" said the comms officer "sapphire is in freefall towards the Scourge Shard world"

“understood” said Sam as a scourge frigate got vaporised by one of the 38-9C’s automated Heavy Ion cannon turrets leaving a cloud of blood and crystal in its place. “oh and Sarah captain needs some biscuits” “yes sir” said Sarah walking to the bridges store room to find some biscuits “right away sir” “well” said Sam standing up and giving Jack a hug “you missed me” “yeah” said Jack “a bit” “ahh” said Sam as she let go of Jack and sat back down in the captain’s chair “that’s kind of nice” “here’s your biscuits captain” said Sarah handing Sam a holographic tube full of biscuits “hope you like them” “wow” said Sam as she began to snack on the biscuits “thanks Sarah your awesome”

(location unknown
Shard world low orbit)

“standby” Said Kim looking at her helmets holographic HUD that read 13 seconds to atmospheric insertion whilst falling besides sapphire “for atmospheric insertion” “yeah” said Kate looking over towards Kim as she fell towards the Scourge Shard world “we must be getting pretty close now” “yep” said Amy as her armour began to heat up slightly due to the fact that they were now falling inside the atmosphere of the Shard world. “we will probably see re-entry plasma trails” “yeah” said Kim who was still falling in formation with Sapphire “agreed” “surface is on sensors” announced Amy looking at her helmets HUD while maintaining formation with Sapphire “ETTT is 45 seconds” “copy” said Sapphire altering their course slightly to ensure that they would land near the final ASSC “ready for surface contact” “Hydrojneiss ” said Kate over the transcom as she continued to fall towards the Shard world “we are 45 seconds from surface contact Standby for confirmation that the last ASSC has been destroyed before sending pickup” “confirmed” said Hydrojneiss “good luck” “I take it” said Kim still falling in formation with Sapphire “that the December has been updated on our status” “oh” said Kate correcting her fall to line up with Sapphires “yes” suddenly huge plasma trails began to appear all around them as they entered the deeper part of the Shard worlds atmosphere.

“well things are definitely heating up around here” said Kim as she fell completely surrounded by plasma causing her to have to rely on her helmet mounted HUD for navigation “I am falling based on sensor data alone” “same here” said Kim who was also relying on her helmet mounted HUD for navigation during the fall “but terrain contacts imminent” “agreed” said Sapphire who was the first to burn off all the excess speed and as a result no longer had plasma trails coming off her armour “25 seconds till contact” “copy” said Kim falling alongside Sapphire “standing by to rotate” “get ready” said Sapphire looking at her HUD that now read 15 seconds till contact “and rotate” suddenly Sapphire ,Kim ,Amy and Kate used the thrusters on their armour to rotate so that their feet were pointing towards the ground” “contact in 5 seconds” said Kim looking at her helmet mounted Hud “initiating landing sequence” suddenly huge clouds of nanoswarm’s were released by their armour. Then nanoswarm then began to create a static field around them. Suddenly they slammed into the ground with so much force that the surface of the Shard world exploded sending blood and fragments of crystal shooting 1500 meters into the air and leaving them standing in the middle of a 500 meter wide and 150 meter deep crater.

“and were down” said Kim looking around at the cracked surface of the shard world and readying her lighting rifle “where to” “I know the way” said Sapphire taking the lightening rifle off the magnetic clamp on her back and holding it “follow me” “lead the way” said Kate taking her lightening rifle off the magnetic clamp on her back “were right behind you” and with that they began to sprint up the side of the crater weapons drawn and ready to engage the scourge.

(location unknown
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"captain" said the comms officer looking at his holographic console "the December is tracking sapphire's position on the Shard worlds surface" "yeah" said Sam standing around and looking at the holographic planning table that had just shown the huge column of debris that had shot out of the ground where Sapphire had landed "I can see" "captain" said the Tactical officer tapping away on a nearby holographic console "we got incoming scourge dreadnoughts request permission to engage" "right then" Said Sam sitting back down in the captain's chair whilst continuing to snack on biscuits "weapons free" suddenly Sam's fleet engaged the scourge dreadnought fleet sending a massive amount of shots From Heavy ION Cannons and Singularity missiles. The scourge returned fire by launching spines and acid at Sam's fleet. The weapon fire crossed midway before impacting both fleets. Sam's fleet took minimal damage from the weapons fire and so did the scourge with only one ship getting destroyed. And as such the engagement continued to rage on.

(location unknown
Shard world
surface)

"there's the ASSC" said Sapphire pointing her lightening rifle at a huge dip in the surface ahead of them "let's get inside" "but Sapphire" said Kim "I don't see a entrance" "don't worry it's here" Said Sapphire looking around before walking straight towards the ASSC "It will probably be covered up so as to defend the entrance from hostiles" "ooh" said Kate pointing straight ahead at a small hole in the ground covered with a living door "that looks like what we want" "agreed" said Sapphire walking towards the hole in the ground "I would say that is the hole that we need to go through to get to the ASSC's acid supply" suddenly as they approached the hole the living door opened up and a swarm of scourge climbed out and began to head straight towards them. "right" said Sapphire as she pulled the trigger of her lightning rifle sending a stream of lightning arcing towards the scourge "weapons free" suddenly Kim ,Kate and Amy fired there lighting rifles and the combined power of the four steams of lighting caused the lightning to arc form scourge to scourge causing each one to explode into multiple clouds off blood and crystal.

"well" said Kim reloading her lighting rifle now that there were no longer any scourge nearby "that was easy" "look" said Sapphire also reloading her lighting rifle "we may have more firepower but they have much higher numbers : so stay focused" with that they walked the rest of the way to the hole unhindered. "wow" said Sapphire looking down the hole " that's quite some drop : my guess would be around 10 meters" "alright" said Kate looking down the hole "let's get down there and kill this door so we are not stuck down there" "agreed" Said Kim shooting the living door with her lightening rifle and killing it in the process "let's get down there : Sapphire do you want to go first" "yeah aright" said Sapphire as she jumped down the hole and landed on the floor with a thump a second later "right I am down" after Kim, Kate and Amy had carefully dropped themselves down the hole they began to walk down the tunnel towards the objective. "now" said Sapphire as she walked down the living tunnel " we should be ok as all of these tunnels connect up so it should be pretty easy to find the acid storage for the ASSC Cannon without too much trouble"

(location unknown)
"38-9C"
Bridge)

"captain" said the Tactical officer as he fired off another salvo of Singularity missiles "we are wining this engagement" "very good "said Sam as a thousands of Heavy ION Cannon beams shot

out of the 38-9C towards the Scourge Dreadnoughts “keep up the good work” “understood” said the tactical officers as the Singularity missiles and Heavy ION Cannon beams connected with the scourge fleet causing yet more of them to explode into clouds of blood and crystal “50% of the Dreadnought fleet has been destroyed sir and we have only taken light damage” “cool” said Sam sitting in the captain’s chair “we are doing kind of awesome” “we sure are” commented Jack “I mean we haven’t even lost a single ship yet” “I wouldn’t say that now if I were you” said Gemini looking towards Jack “I mean you never know how much backup the scourge are going to have”

(location unknown

Shard world

Underground)

“Sapphire” said Kim looking at her helmets HUD “the ASSC’s acid storage bladder should be located very close to our current position” “understood “ said Sapphire looking towards Kim “and what about the Scourge” “I haven’t got any scourge on sensors” said Amy looking at her helmets HUD “but I can detect acid close by” “copy that” said Sapphire walking down the living tunnel “let’s get there” after 3 minutes they reached the acid bladder and around it were over 1000 scourge lifeforms. “dam” said Kim “they know what we are trying to do : Sapphire what do we do now” “engage the scourge” said Sapphire readying her lightning rifle “then complete the objective and get out of here” “copy that” said Kim as she Kate and Amy readied their lighting rifles “ready” “in that case” said Sapphire as her HUD started display targets as the armours targeting system began to lock on to the scourge lifeforms “weapons free” suddenly they opened fire sending streams of lightning arcing off the floors and walls of the living tunnel. Seeing this the scourge reacted by firing a combination of acid and spines towards them. Seeing this Sapphire and Kim dived behind a living rock to the right of the living tunnel. whilst Kate and Amy dived left behind a living rock on the left side of the living tunnel.

“well” said Amy as she couched behind the living cover “this certainly makes things interesting” “you can say that again” said Kim as a huge volley of acid and spines shot over her head and heavily damaged the wall behind them “what’s the plan” “synchronise your shots” said Sapphire “3 -2 -1 fire” suddenly they all swung their lightning rifles over the top of the living rocks that they were taking cover behind. The then all pulled there triggers at the same time sending 4 streams of lighting arcing down the living tunnel. The scourge tried to get out of the way but were unable to and as a result once the lightning arced across to them they exploded sending blood and crystal flying into the air. Even better still the lightning arced right into the wall of the acid storage bladder causing it to rupture.

“sapphire” said Kim looking at the environmental readings from her helmets HUD we need to leave :like right now” “agreed” said Sappier turning around and beginning to run back the way they had come down the living tunnel “let’s get to the surface as fast as possible” and with that they all began to run down the living tunnel with the acid racing down the tunnel behind them. “sapphire” said Amy running alongside Sapphire “the acid from the ASSC is gaining on us” “understood” said Sapphire as she began to run even faster “lets pick up the pace”

(location unknown

December

Bridge)

“captain” said the Science officer “the scourge ASSC has been disabled” “understood” said

Hydrojneiss appearing above the bridges holographic planning table “and what’s the status of Sapphire” “she is extracting” said the comms officer “I estimate she should be at the surface shortly” “confirmed” said Hydrojneiss From above the bridges holographic planning table “that is good news” “captain” said the Comms officer “nova has cleared out the last of the scourge near his fleet and is moving to our position” “understood” said Hydrojneiss disappearing from above the holographic planning table “that’s good to hear” “captain” said the comms officer “Sapphire has just reached the surface and requests pickup” “very good” said Hydrojneiss “send a Heavy Gunship to pick her and her bodyguards up” “yes sir” said the Decembers logistics officer “will do”

(location unknown
Shard world
surface)

“Sapphire” said Kate looking at the communication logs on her helmets HUD “pick up is inbound” “what’s its ETTT” said Sapphire looking towards Kate “as I don’t want to be on this Shard world for much longer” “estimated time to target” Said Kate looking once again at her helmets HUD “is 86 seconds” “understood” said Sapphire “defensive formation 772” “sir” said Kate “yes sir” suddenly Sapphire ,Kate, Kim and Amy moved themselves so they were back to back and each of them were covering a different firing arc. “nice view” said Kim looking around at the living mountains and plant life that covered the surface of the shard world “makes you think about if its right to destroy this world” “look” said Sapphire as the ASSC detonated behind her catapulting blood ,acid and crystal high up into the atmosphere. “the scourge are a massive threat as you all have seen : we are doing ourselves a favour by destroying this Shard world” “yeah” said Kim “as much as I find them fascinating the Scourge do seem to want to completely destroy all life and mine all resources that they come across” “overpopulation” said Amy “isn’t it” “yeah” said Sapphire “they have not enough resources or planets for their species to be stable : which in the end is what makes them such a big threat” “yeah” Said Kim “the Exodus were bad but they did a good job containing the Scourge” “very true” said Sapphire “but you have to remember that in the end life itself is the ultimate adventure : I mean look at us : we four humans are standing on the surface of a Scourge Shard world looking across its surface and taking in the view : not many people can say that they did that” “yeah” said Kim “your right life is one amazing adventure ” “it sure is” said Sapphire “it sure is”

suddenly overhead they heard the roar of the engines of a heavy gunship as it came flying towards their position. The Heavy gunship flew around them once in a large circle so as to ensure that the landing zone was safe. Before suddenly moving itself into position overhead creating a huge amount of noise as it did so. The nearby lifeforms were thrown into the air due to the amount of downwash from the 16 huge propellers separated into 8 propeller wells and 6 large fusion engines on the edges of the heavy gunship. The rear engine pulsed a few more times and then the heavy gunship began to land using its fusion engines burning a large amount of the living ground around the landing site as it came down for its landing. Finally the heavy gunship extended its landing gear before landing with a huge bang splitting the living ground in the areas around its landing gear creating pools of blood and crystal around its landing gear as it settled on the ground.

Suddenly there was a hiss of escaping air and the boarding ramp was lowered on to the ground. “come on” yelled the loading officer over the downwash who was inside the heavy gunship at the top of the ramp. “we are on the way” said Sapphire as she ,Kim Amy and Kate ran up the gunships ramp and sat down in the Heavy gunships acceleration seats and pulled down the top half of the acceleration seats as the ram locked back into its closed position with a bang “right ready for take-

off” “copy” said the Heavy gunships pilot “proceeding to orbit” suddenly there was a huge amount of noise as the engines went to full power and the heavy gunship lifted itself into the air. Immediately following this landing gear made a loud noise as they were retracted and 10 seconds later the heavy gunship cleared the living terrain of the Shard world and the fusion engines rotated to face towards the back of the ship and along with the rear engine went to 100% throttle sending the ship shooting off towards orbit at such speed as to create 23 meter long plasma trails coming off the heavy gunship. “orbital in 28 seconds” “said the Heavy Gunships pilot “stand by for atmospheric breach” suddenly the ship lurched forward as it cleared the atmosphere and began to gain yet more speed. “take us back to the December” said Sam to the pilot “we have got a mission to complete” “sir” said the pilot as the Heavy Gunship “yes sir”

(location unknown
“38-9C”
Bridge)

“all ships” said Nova over the transcom “move into orbit around the Shard world as hostile ASSC’s have been neutralised” “yep” said Sam looking over towards the comms officer “let’s get into orbit at the same position as Nova’s and Sapphire’s fleets” “yes sir” said the helms officer “we are in route to orbit” “very good” said Sam “tactical disarm the safety’s on our cataclysm missiles” “sir yes sir” said the tactical officer “disarming the safety’s on our cataclysm missiles now”

(chapter 32)
(Shard world down)

(location unknown
December
Bridge)

“captain on deck” announced the tactical officer as Sapphire marched out of the gravimetric acceleration tube and onto the bridge “Hydrojneiss stands relieved” “well I am back” said Sapphire from the captain’s chair “and I am ready to put an end to the scourge threat towards humanity” “20 seconds till all ships enter orbital sir” said the comms officer “and we are entering final approach now” “ok” said Sapphire “put me on fleetcomm” “yes sir” said the comms officer “at this time” said Sapphire “we are about to deliver the final blow to the scourge near our universe so can all ships across all fleets in this assault please arm your cataclysm missiles now and prepare to fire” “sir yes sir” said the tactical officer “safety’s disarmed” “the Decembers is in range sir” “stand by all ships” said Sapphire pausing a whole minute to give all ships enough time to arm and load their cataclysm missiles “all ships : fire”

(location unknown
“38-9C”
Bridge)

“tactical” said Sam leaning back in the captain chair “open fire” “copy that sir” said tactical tapping a string of complex commands into the holographic panel in front of him. suddenly there was a huge bang and a massive flash of dark red light and 500 cataclysm missiles went shooting out of the front of the 38-9C in a cloud of dark red smoke “we have weapons release” suddenly there was a second massive flash of dark red light and the 500 cataclysm missiles accelerated towards

the hive world. "impact imminent" said tactical officer "ETTT 15 seconds."

Suddenly the cataclysm missiles impacted the Scourge Shard World causing a massive purple explosion as massive portions of the Shard World instantly turned to plasma it and exploded outwards into space in huge fast moving clouds of debris, crystal ,blood and plasma. The plasma propelled by the shockwave from the explosion sent debris, blood and crystal flying across space towards the human fleets. But before the plasma reached the human fleet it dissipated leaving just the debris ,blood and crystal to collide and ricochet off the ships of the human fleet.

"mission Accomplished" said Nova over the transcom "all ships are to return to base"
"you heard Nova" said Sam "lets get back to Triangulum"
"yes sir" said the Helms officer "standby for torsion" "well" said Gemini standing next to the holographic planning table "that counts as victory" "it sure does" said Sam "helm get us in torsion as soon as possible" "sir yes sir" said the helms officer "initiating torsion" suddenly There was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the 38-9C entering torsion. And all At the same time the ship gave a huge lurch forward and the contents of the ship lurched backwards by a few centimetres thanks to inertia dampeners. Leaving just the view from the bridge window that showed the blackness of the compressed space-time caused by using faster than light technology's. "arrival at the Triangulum galaxy in 22 hours" said the Helms officer "you might want to do something else"

"yeah I am going to go and get some sleep" said Sam walking off the bridge and into her apartment "jack , Gemini you coming" "yeah" said Gemini sprinting after Sam "wait up" "see you around Sarah" Said Jack as he walked into his ,Sam's and Gemini's apartment "will probably be seeing you when we arrive at Triangulum" "yeah ok" said Sarah "I will see you in a bit"

(location unknown

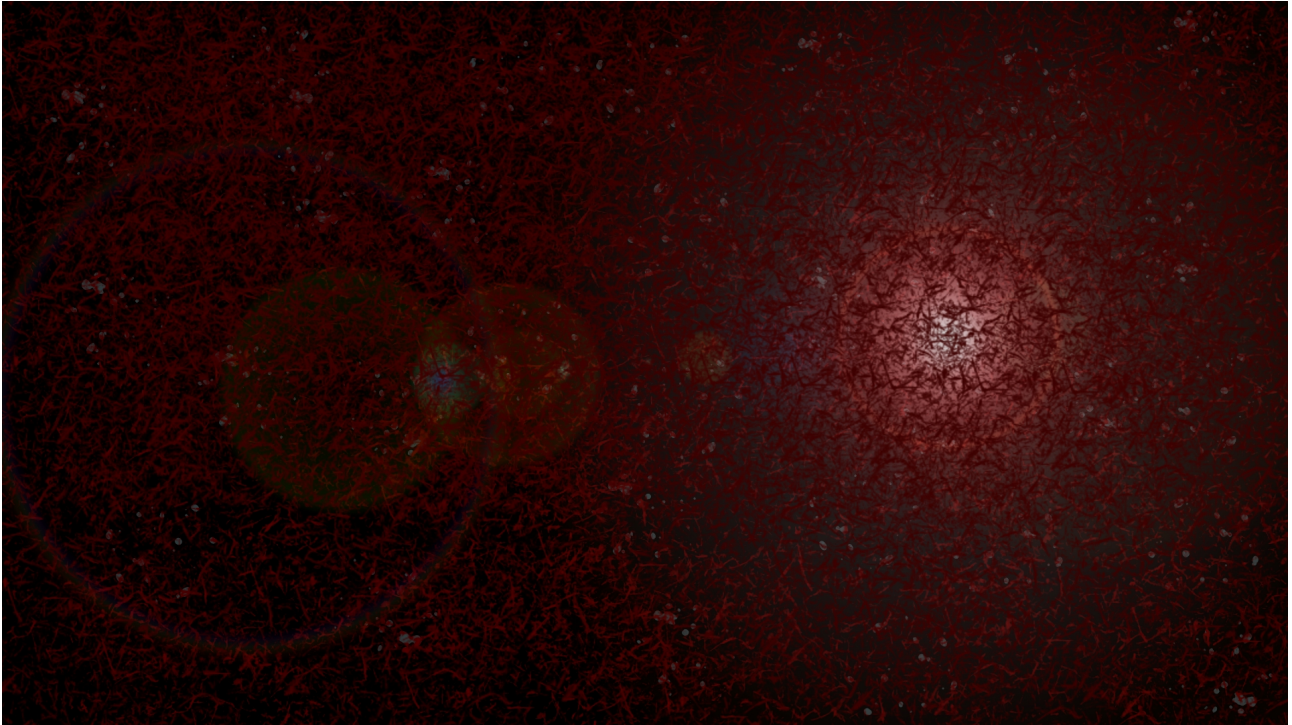
"38-9C"

Sam , Jack and Gemini's apartment)

"well" said Sam looking towards Jack and Gemini "well done both of you : were done : humanity is safe" "for now" said Jack looking out the window at the compressed spacetime of torsion "I mean there will always be more species out there just waiting to destroy us" "yeah" said Sam getting into bed "but when they come we will be ready" "agreed" said Jack getting into bed with Sam "we will be ready when the time comes" "oh yeah" said Gemini getting into her anti-gravity chamber so as to get some sleep on the flight back to Triangulum "we will always be ready : I mean come on look at all the training we do when we are not at war : heck it's probably more than the actual time when we are at war" "yeah" said Sam sleepily lying in bed "it's about twice as hard to train for the war than the war is itself : that's how prepared we are"

(chapter 33)
(Heading Back Home)

(location unknown
"38-9C"
Bridge)



"Captain on deck" announced Sarah "you alright captain Eden" "oh yeah" said Sam "how long until we drop torsion and begin enter a holding pattern around Triangulum" "in 5 seconds sir" said the helms officer as he tapped away at his holographic console "exiting torsion now" Suddenly the 38-9C began to decelerate and objects began to move towards the front of the bridge. At the same time there was a huge cloud of light grey mist followed by a huge bang and the ship arrived orbit around the shipyards of Triangulum. "captain" said the helms officer "orbit around Triangulum shipyards has been established" "very good" said Sam getting up from the captain's chair "inform the others that we are like totally having a party on this ship and tell them to meet me in my apartment" "sir yes sir" said Sarah tapping away on her tablet "they have been invited" "awesome" said Sam walking back over to her apartment "then let's do this" "well" said Gemini walking besides Jack back over to the apartment "after that fleet fight this party will be a piece of cake" "I don't get it" said Jack looking confused as he and Gemini walked through the door back into there and Sam's apartment "what's the joke" "ah don't you get it" said Gemini looking at Jack "party's tend to have cake and eating cake is easier than conducting a fleetfight" "ahh" said Jack looking towards Gemini "I get it : yeah that's quite funny" "right" said Sam loudly whilst throwing her arms into the air "who is ready for party action" "me" said Gemini walking over towards where Sam was standing "I am" "yeah alright" said Jack walking over to Sam who then proceeded to hug him "it's good to finally be safe from the scourge" "it sure is" said Sam hugging Jack whilst simultaneously looking out into space towards the Triangulum shipyards where billions of ships were flying about each doing their own thing "and it's nice to finally be done with the scourge threat and be able to relax"

(epilogue)

When humanity as a whole is threatened they respond as one team with one goal . the goal is simple : survival. But sometimes the path to success is not an easy one to take. For many can stand in their way. This time it was the scourge that were the threat but next time it could be another species entirely. But there is one thing that we can be certain about. Humanity will stand as one species , one team : against any threat from any species at any time. This was there story and this is what humanity can do when they act as one against a common objective. In short they achieve victory. And a united humanity that is something worth fighting for.

THE END

