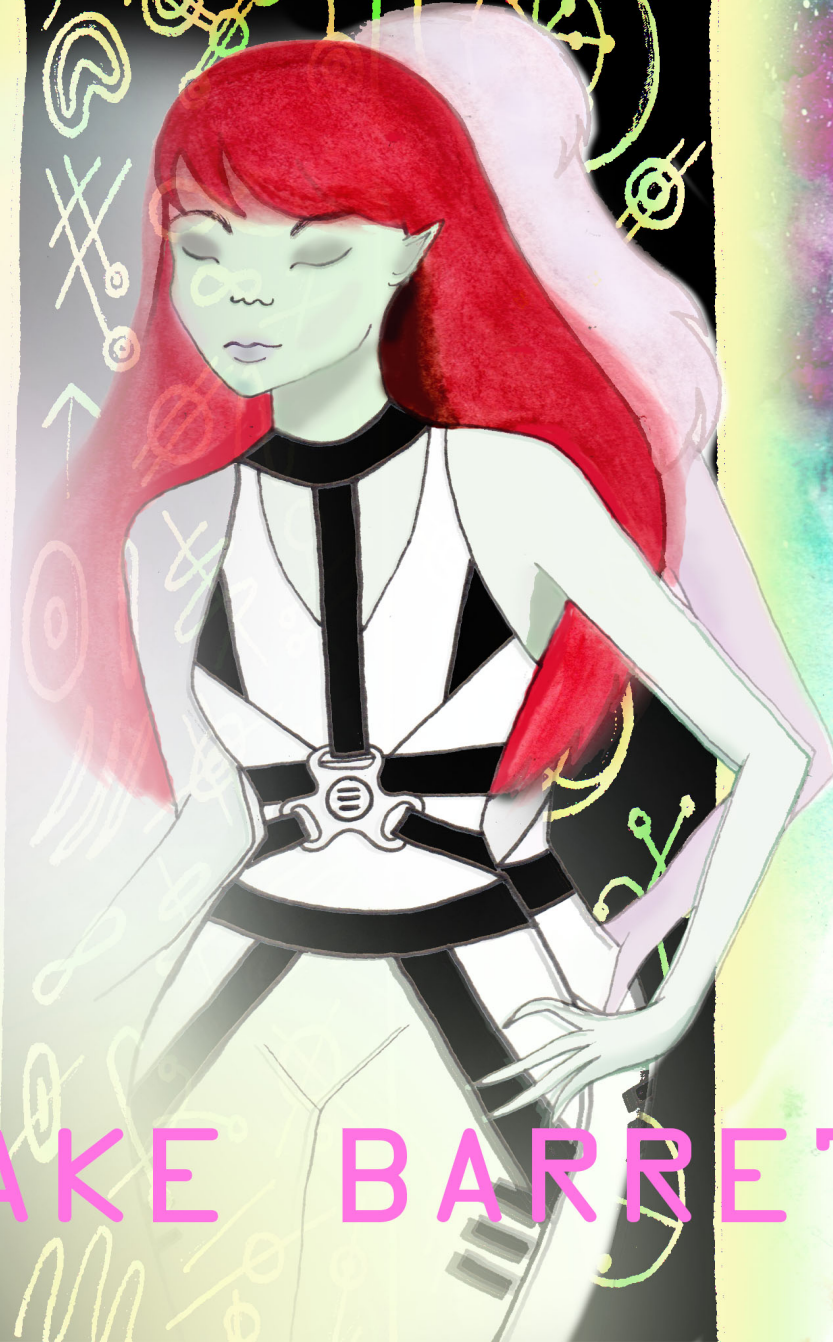




GENIUM



JAKE BARRETT

# Prelude

## 7 years ago

Frontier

Galier

Acadia

Lauren's ranch

Gemini's family home was located just outside of Acadia which was in turn located on the edge of Galier's north-east ocean on the edge of the universe in a region of space called the frontier.

The ranch was responsible for producing 5% of the food eaten in Acadia and was sitting in an area of great natural beauty. Which was currently being lit by moonlight which cascaded across the lake to the north. Across the fields past the ranch and off into the distance covering the ground in a brilliant dark blue light.

Inside Gemini's parents were making supper. Meanwhile Gemini was sitting on a old red wooden chair that had it's paint peeling off in many different places and was positioned under the grande style veranda besides the doorstep.

"Gemini suppers ready." Said Gemini's mother Elisabeth who poked her head out of the front door next to Gemini and gestured for her to come in. "Come now or it will get cold."

"It's not going to get cold in two minutes mum." Said Gemini leaning back in the wooden chair with her hands on her chest idly playing with her bright red hair that reached all the way down to 3.5 centimeters from her waist. "I will come inside in when I am done here."

"No you will come inside now Gemini." Said Elisabeth who was now standing next to Gemini and pointing inside with a wooden spoon. "You have been out here watching the night sky since you got home 5 hours ago now it's supper time."

"Ok fine but one day I will be up there in space protecting humanity from some great threat." Said Gemini as she pushed herself out of the red wooden chair and into the moonlight. Causing her hair to sparkle as it caught the edge of the moonlight. before following Elisabeth inside their house. "Some day I will be a superhero."

The inside of Lauren's ranch was quite spacious and was made out of dark mahogany the kitchen was open plan and placed under a large heptagonal domed skylight. Through which you could see the massive orbital elevator cable that shot up into space from the other side of

Acadia and connected with the planets torus. A massive space station that circled the whole planet and provided defense for the planet. In the form of anti-starship cannons as well as hanger bays and a shield system that could cover the whole planet when needed.

"So Gemini how was your day." Said Gemini's sister Katty who was sitting at the table and staring at the steaming saucepan of onion soup located in the middle of the table and looking hungrily at it. "You still dreaming of getting off this planet."

"You know I have bigger dreams for my life Katty." Said Gemini as she sat down at the table and was quickly presented with a bowl of onion soup and a spoon by Elisabeth which she quickly picked up and began to eat the onion soup whilst continuing the conversation. "I want to fly through space in starships, I want to fight the good fight, I want to protect humanity from the things that go bump in the night."

Suddenly there was a loud radio beep that startled Gemini's farther Greg and caused him to put down his tablet that he was reading the news on and turn the radio off standby.

"This is the planetary defense command center we have detected multiple Exodus fleets that are converging on our current position." Said an AI voice over the radio. "All civilians are to report to there designated shelters immediately this is not a drill."

"Everyone in the basement now." Yelled Elisabeth as she turned off the cooker and ran over to the door to their basement and inputted the access code into the holographic panel before grabbing a massive quad barreled shotgun from the shelf above the door to the basement.

"Greg you stay downstairs with the kids I need to arm and online the ranch's defensive systems."

"Ok we will meet you down in the basement then." Said Greg as he sprung to his feet and grabbed Gemini's and Katty's hands and ran down into the basement closing the door behind them. "Remember girls we should be safe down here."

Suddenly there was hundreds of small rapid fire bangs from the other side of the basement door.

"Exodus get out of my house before I throw you out." Yelled Elisabeth before four massive shotgun blasts sounded from the over side of the door followed by a high pitched scream.

"Greg, Gemini and Katty remember I will always love you."

Then suddenly with one more massive bang upstairs was dead silent. Then 5 seconds later there was another massive bang as the basement door was blown towards them killing Greg and Katty instantly and throwing Gemini backwards into a large pile of debris and bits of door and body parts. Suddenly Gemini realised that the massive pain she was experiencing in her stomach was because she had been impaled on one of the hot water pipes that ran up the basements wall up to the floor above and with that she passed out from blood loss.

7 hours later

Frontier

Galier

Acadia

Lauren's ranch

"This is Kim I have reached the provided coordinates." Said Kim as she let her lighting rifle fall onto it's strap around her neck before she climbed over the Ranch's perimeter fence and began walking past all of the destruction, fires and debris around her and towards the remains of the main house at Lauren's ranch that looked like several bombs had just gone off inside the house as all that she could see was burnt and still burning wood scattered around where the house should of been. "I am not seeing any survivors please advise over."

"Understood we just looked at the building plans and it seems that they might of had a basement you should check there." Said Sarah over the comms. "Get back to me after you have searched the basement."

"Right will do." Said Kim trying to think of some way that this was survivable for the civilians living at the Ranch. "I am hoping for survivors but I am not going to lie the situation doesn't look good."

A short time later Kim walked through the front door and down into the basement taking care to avoid the body parts and blood that were covering the surfaces around her.

Then suddenly she spotted something moving ahead of her through the very narrow slit of daylight that was coming down the stairs.

Suddenly the air was filled with bright blue light and a massive bang as Kim pulled the trigger on her lighting rifle sending a massive stream of lightning slamming into the Exodus infiltrator.

Causing it to explode into robotic fragments that were catapulted off in all directions before coming to a rest on the floor of the basement.

"Found a possible survivor." Said Kim as she ran down the last few stairs and crouched down beside Gemini and took her left glove off and placed it onto Gemini's stomach right beside the hot water pipe that had her impaled to the wall and felt the blood. "Sarah I have found a survivor but her blood is really cold I am not sure that she made it I might of got here too late." Said Kim as she crouched besides Gemini and felt for a blood flow and found a very slow one. "Wait she has a blood flow but it's not more than one circulation per minute and it's very weak but I think she can be saved."

"Thats good news Kim." Said Sarah over the comms. "I am sending in a heavy gunship to your position that will take the civilian to Origin where she can hopefully be saved. From there we will have to see who will adopt her I would guess that Samantha Charles Eden and Jack Eden would probably be up for it."

With that Kim carefully lifted Gemini off the hot water pipe and opened one of the bags she was carrying around her waist. Kim then took out 8 living cables and connected them first to her back. Before inserting them into the hole in Gemini's abdomen to stabilise her. Kim then stood up and carried her all the way up the stairs before running out of the front door and across the grass and up the ramp of the heavy gunship that had landed just 47 meters from the basement door. Suddenly the boarding ramp of the heavy gunship closed and with a massive burst of power from the heavy gunship's propellers and vertical lift engines the heavy gunship leaped into the air then once it was 250 meters off the ground it fired up its main engines and after passing through the region of maximum dynamic pressure elegantly soared into space at a 75 degree angle before disappearing into the high altitude clouds a few seconds later.

Act I

Artifact

# Chapter 1

## Duality

### Present day

2 years after the Human – Scourge war the universe had entered a new age of peace. Because of this Sam and Jack had helped Gemini create her own corporation called Gemini holdings.

This had Several advantages one of these advantages was that Sam and Jack were able to return to living together over in Tri Circle.

This also had the other advantage of ensuring that even though Gemini was now based in Cassiopeia Sam and Jack would still be able to support her if the need arised.

At the centre of the operations of Gemini Holdings was Duality.

Duality had been a normal planet until humanity settled on it and modified it to be completely hollow so that it could act as a shipyard for logistics.

This also provided a spectacular view of the inside surface of the planet.

Another unique feature is that Duality had an entrance into the middle of the planet around the equator this meant that there was a 500,000,000 meter wide gap between the northern and southern hemispheres of the planet which rotated independently of each other.

With the northern hemisphere anti-clockwise and the southern hemisphere rotating clockwise.

Through this gap one could look into the insides of Duality and see millions of logistics starships coming and going all adding to the bright blue light that poured out of the gap and made night on Duality never happen for those who lived less than 350,000 meters from the gap.

This modification also meant that 5,000,000 atmospheric generators were needed in order to maintain the atmosphere of inside Duality. Which makes Duality one of the most power

inefficient worlds colonised by humanity.

Cassiopeia

Kire-477

Duality

Logistics Command center

The Logistics Command center at Duality was responsible for shipping high value goods across the universe. Dealing with everything from resupply missions for military groups such as Titan Core the Aurora and the UUDF to supplying the resources needed to keep some of the smaller or remote worlds habitable.

"No we are not paying for that." Yelled Gemini over the comms to a business partner in Tri-Light Genetics as she loudly walked into the command center with her blue-grey-green eyes reflecting the interior of the logistics command center and her Bright red hair flowing along behind her almost reaching her waist. Each step sending a metallic thud reverberating across the room. "It's not my fault that your cargo loading personnel don't understand how to transport wetware correctly. I mean none of it was secured to any of the cargo containers and as a result millions of wetware components have been ruined and all because some idiot forgot to read the dam instructions."

"Yeah but it is still your fault." Said the Tri-Light Genetics Representative. "You should of checked the cargo before accepting it."

"Thats not our job thats yours. This conversation is over." Yelled Gemini over the comms her blue-grey-green eyes giving a piercing and hostile look before hanging up. "Sorry about that. That persons a total idiot."

"Hey Gemini." Said Gemini's girlfriend Kim who was tall and quite slim and had beautiful emerald green eyes. Her hair was white, blond, pink shoulder length and flowed elegantly across her shoulders. "Welcome back oh and I hope that your trip was productive."

"Sure was." said Gemini as she strided over to the rooms main holographic planning table and with a quick tap brought it online began to carefully look over the latest contracts that were being completed or in progress. "I managed to convince the UUDF to let us supply there Starships with water for the next 3 years so that should help us financially."

"Yeah I bet." Said Kim as she walked over and stood next to Gemini. "What state do you want the water to be transported in?"

"Solid is preferred" Said Gemini. "As it is less lightly to cause damage to our transports due to the load shifting when in transport."

"Ok will do." Said Kim tapping the instructions into her tablet. "I mean it works out anyway as all

our liquid transports are still completing their assigned contracts and as a result are unavailable."

"Ah cool." Said Gemini "Oh and whilst I remember I want all of our transports to be escorted when on deployments that have been assigned by an corporation that is not ours as we can never be to careful."

"Ok who do you want to fly escort." Said Kim looking over towards Gemini. "Titan Core?"

"Of course I want Titan Core." Said Gemini looking back towards Kim. "they are way better organised than the UUDF and there friendly to us as well."

"Ok then." Said Kim as she turned to leave the Logistics command center. "I will organise that right away."

"Awesome." Said Gemini "I will see you in the docking bay in in a few minutes."

"Right then." Said Kim looking back towards Gemini. "I will see you down there."

Duality  
interior  
Eris plateau  
Docking bay

"Ah you made it." Said Gemini looking over towards the gravimetric acceleration tube just as Kim stepped out. "Shall we get linked?"

"Yeah." Said Kim gesturing towards the link room. "let's go."

"So." Said Gemini as she and Kim walked over to the link room. "Did you get the stuff you needed to do done."

"Yep." Said Kim as she and Gemini walked into the link room. "I just finished."

"Right then." Said the Technician looking towards them. "You ready?"

"Yep." Said Gemini. "We sure are."

"Right then." Said the Technician pointing to the link platform in the middle of the room. "If you can go and stand over there."

"So." Said Kim as she walked over to the link platform. "What's on your mind?"

"No point asking." Said Gemini stepping onto the middle of the link platform. "After all in a few moments we will be sharing our thoughts anyway."

"Alright then." Said the Technician. "If you are ready I can link you up."

"Well then." Said Gemini standing still next to Kim. "let's do it."

"Alright then." Said the Technician as he tapped the button on his console that would initiate the process. "Here we go."

Suddenly two sections of the floor rised up behind Kim and Gemini parallel to their spines then the sides nearest their spines opened revealing 8 living cables. The living cables then began to slowly extend till they locked into place in the sockets in Gemini and Kim's spines.

"Ok." said Gemini. "This feels weird."

"Not to worry." Said the Technician as he tapped away on his console. "Synchronising secondary brains now."

Suddenly there was a small flash of light that darted across Gemini vision. Then suddenly she could feel what Kim was doing.

"Initiating handshake." Said the Technician as he continued to tap away on his console. "Primary brain synchronising."

Suddenly Gemini felt really weird as her mind began to merge with Kim's. Then suddenly there was a second voice in her head.

"Hi hi." Said Kim through the living cables. "you alright?"

"I am now." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Connection looks good."

"System is functioning within normal parameters." Said the technician. "Greenlight."

"Right then now that's out of the way." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Let's get to the hanger bay."

"Thanks." Said Kim looking towards the technician. "You have been a great help."

"Thanks." Said Gemini as she walked with Kim back into the hanger bay. "Right let's go."

A few moments later Gemini and Kim had walked over to Gemini holdings flagship.

Suddenly the massive capitol class starship came into view ahead of them.

The carrier was 5228 meters high and had hundreds of boarding tubes coming off it's sides.

The carrier was also connected to Duality through 6 massive docking clamps and had it's hull number and name etched into it's side it's hull in 100 meter high letters the C-c-7114-2B Eternity.

"She's quite the ship." Said Gemini over the living cables looking out towards the carrier. "I managed to acquire the ship from Titan Core about a year ago only a few days before it was going to be decommissioned."

"Nice." Said Kim over the living cables looking towards Gemini "But what's the catch?"

"Yeah I thought you might say that." Said Gemini over the living cables whilst looking towards Kim. "You see when I brought the ship it was about to be disassembled so all it's combat capabilities were removed weapons, armor, launch tubes and all the hangers flight systems as well as any advanced computer and communication hardware."

"Well that's rubbish." Said Kim over the living cables. "So basically it's a really overpriced freighter. Please tell me it has shields."

"Yeah." Said Gemini over the living cables. "It does at least have shields but they are only civilian grade shields. And whilst were talking about the downgrades made to the carrier it also got it's capacitors and dark fusion core massively downgraded."

"Fantastic." Said Kim over the living cables. "Please tell me the carrier at least has an AI."

"Errr no." Said Gemini over the living cables. "That was one of the first things to get removed and as a civilian corporation we are unable to access that kind of technology."

"Well that's just great." Said Kim over the living cables. "So how much does the lack of an AI effect the ship?"

"Well we don't have nearly as much hanger space which I guess is now cargo space. This is because half of the hanger bays had to be converted into regular ship facilities and systems in order to support the additional crew." Said Gemini. "Basically without an AI the bridge requires a crew of 33 times the size. This means that the bridge now takes up a much larger percentage of the ship. Oh and we don't have nearly as much speed as we no longer have a military grade torsion drive."

"Right well let's head on board." Said Gemini over the living cables. "As it should be nearly ready for undock."

"Right." Said Kim over the living cables as she and Gemini began to walk down the corridor to the nearby airlock that would lead onto the boarding tube that would take them onto the carrier. "Let's get going then."

As Kim and Gemini approached the airlock they could see her signature jet black armor with gold captains stripes on it's shoulder plates of the captain of the Eternity. Once Kim and Gemini reached the airlock the captain of the Eternity brushed her shoulder length wavy golden hair out of her bright pink eyes and put her hand out and shook hands with Gemini.

"Kristina Ellen Stellaria." Said the captain of the Eternity. "Or Kristal for short I served 5 years with Titan Core. Mostly as a fleet commander and also took part in multiple battles with the Exodus and the Scourge. You will have to forgive our delayed departure as there were multiple plasma storms roaming around Triangulum and we got held up at the Cassiopeia boarder for 4 hours and as a result we only just got here."

"Yeah sorry about that our boarder control personnel are pretty strict when it comes to who is allowed in to our space. At this point it's basically only Cassiopeian citizens and a few authorized members of Titan Core." Said Gemini as they began to walk along the boarding tube that would take them onto the Eternity. "So I guess you had to travel quite the distance then."

"Sure did." Said Kristal. "Was a 5 hour flight from Progress to Voidstar then we refueled and then traveled another 7 hours to Duality."

"So." Said Kim. "Did you have a good flight then?"

"Yes it was alright." Said Kristal. "Bit boring though I hate long flights."

"Still." Said Gemini. "I seem to recall having read that you spent most of your life on starships on patrols along the Frontier?"

"Yeah." Said Kristal as they entered the airlock that would open onto the Eternity. "I think the longest mission I did was a year and a half. I ended up being pretty good at getting around that ship by the end of the mission."

"Well." Said Gemini as Kristal tapped the access code into the airlocks holographic control panel. "That's fair enough."

Suddenly the airlock door opened and standing on the other side was the Eternity first officer Kira. Kira had bright purple eyes and short red hair tucked behind her ears. Kira was holding a tablet computer in her right arm that was connected to her wetware by means of 8 living cables that connected to the sockets her back. All whilst looking with a respectful awe towards Kristal.

"Captain we have finished refueling." Said Kira as she saluted towards Kristal with her free arm. "We are ready for immediate departure Captain."

"Thanks." Said Kristal. "Flight time to Genricar-1477 moon 17."

"12 hours." Said Kira tapping away on her tablet computer. "That's if we don't have issues with our dark fusion cores again."

"Yeah we really need to troubleshoot that." Said Kristal. "Don't worry I will speak with the head of engineering once were in torsion."

"Understood captain." Said Kira. "What's the plan?"

"Head to the bridge and get us to Genricar-1477 moon 17." Said Kristal "I will go and see if I can help with getting the dark fusion cores sorted."

"What should Kim and myself do?" Asked Gemini. "I mean we are happy to help if needed."

"Thanks for the offer." Said Kristal. "But I think we have this covered and on that note. Kristal to vaporize control vaporize me to engineering and Kira to the bridge."

Suddenly there was a huge bang and Kristal and Kira vanished into a glowing bright green mist that filled the corridor.

"This is acting captain Kira." Said Kira over the ships intercom. "Standby for undock followed by immediate torsion."

Duality  
interior  
Eris plateau  
Docking bay  
Eternity  
Bridge

"Acting captain." Said the helm officer. "Dock control reports greenlight initiating undock."

Suddenly a loud bang reverberated throughout the Eternity as the docking clamps and boarding tubes retracted.

"We are undocked." Said the helm officer tapping a series of commands into a nearby holographic display. "Commencing main engine start."

Instantly there was a huge roar from the ships engines and the Eternity began to move very slowly out of the docking bay.

"Acting captain we have undocked." Said the helm officer. "Proceeding to minimum safe distance from Duality."

"Acting captain." Said the comms officer. "Our Titan Core escort have broken there high orbit around Duality and are in torsion to our current position. they should be arriving any moment now."

Suddenly there was 33 huge flashes of light as The Titan Core destroyers came out of torsion alongside the Eternity in a cloud of fine light grey mist.

"Well." Said the tactical officer as another massive ship exited torsion in a huge cloud of light grey mist. "Just one more ship left."

Duality  
Eternity  
Gemini's quarters

Kim and Gemini were standing by the window when suddenly another Titan core ship came out of torsion.

"Wow that one's big." Said Kim as a Titan Core Battleyard came out of torsion so close to the Eternity that Kim and Gemini were unable to see anything but light gray mist out of the window. "I wonder who's the captain?"

Suddenly there was a loud bang behind Kim and Gemini and through all the orange mist Kim and Gemini could make out the outlines of two people she knew very well.

"Well Kim you asked who the captain is." Said Sam looking towards Gemini with her amethyst colored eyes that nicely complemented her waist length shiny dark green hair that was glowing slightly. "That person would be me."

"Sam." Exclaimed Gemini before running over to her and giving her a hug. "How's things I haven't seen you in ages."

"Yeah we have been rather busy." Replied Jack looking over towards Gemini with his green eyes that had a few strands of jet black hair falling in front of them. "Only just got here. You know for the grand entrance and all that."

"Nice to see you." Said Sam somewhat letting go of Gemini. "We were just coming back from visiting my mother Sophia Becki Eden she makes the most incredible onion soup. Her war stories however can be pretty boring. Anyway enough about me hows things been with you."

"Good thanks." Said Gemini. "Thanks so much for coming on such short notice."

"Ah well." Said Sam letting go of Gemini whilst at the same time placing a small living device into Gemini's left hand. "It's not a problem."

"Err Sam." Said Gemini holding up the small living device and looking closely at it. "What is this?"

"That is a fragment." Said Sam "It's a a combination of me and Jack's neural networks we made her to give to you. As your ship doesn't have an AI and we thought she would be able to help you."

"What's her name?" Asked Gemini. "Or is it undecided."

"It's unassigned so it's your choice." Said Sam kindly. "Jack I need you back on the 38-9C. Because in the event we are attacked I need to be with Gemini to protect her."

"Myself and Kristal are more than qualified to protect her." Said Kim. "Also Kira is fully trained in advanced hand to hand combat as well as advanced firearm usage and zero-G combat."

"Vaporize me to 38-9C" Said Jack over the comms link with the 38-9C. "See you when we get there."

Suddenly there was a huge bang and Jack vanished leaving behind a glowing bright green mist that filled room.

"Oh were rolling with you?" Said Kim half laughing. "Let's get going then."

"Right then." Said Sam. "Here we go fleet defenses initiated."

Suddenly Sam's eyes became focused and her 3 spines began to glow a bright purple. Then suddenly there was huge bang and a shield of solidified dark matter was brought into existence around the fleet.

"This is acting captain Kira standby for torsion." Said Kira over fleetcom1. "Fleet torsion will be engaged to Genricar-1477 moon 17 once the capacitors are charged."

"No need." Said Jack "Sam told me to engage the torsion drive on 38-9C so standby for fleet torsion."

"Ah thanks." Said Kira over fleetcom1. "Ready when you are."

Suddenly Eternity's Torsion drive began to spin up and soon began to admit a high pitch whine.

Suddenly there was a huge flash of grey light and a massively loud bang caused by the Eternity

and the rest of the fleet entering torsion.

And all that was left 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 Eternity gave a huge lurch forward and the contents of the room only lurched backwards by a few centimeters thanks to inertia dampeners.

Leaving just the view from the rooms window that showed the blackness of the compressed space-time caused by using faster than light technology.

## Chapter 2

### Genricar-1477 moon 17

Eternity  
Gemini's quarters

"So Gemini." Asked Kim from her position standing besides Gemini. "Why are we going to Genricar-1477."

"An archeology team discovered an artifact of unknown origin." said Gemini. "We have been assigned to pick it up and take it to Triangulum for analysis."

"And the escort." Asked Kim looking towards Gemini. "Why do we need it."

"Because the artifact will need to be shielded." Said Gemini. "As it's energy signature might be intercepted by the Scourge. Well the remnants of them anyway Which would be disastrous."

"What I want to know. "Said Kim. "Is why the archeology team suspect the scourge would be interested in it?"

"I think I know why." Said Sam. "Humanity cheated to get to this level of technology by repeatedly sending there technology back in time. That way we reached technological singularity way before we should of done."

"That's not good." said Kristal. "If the scourge find out about the artifact then they will be able to use the same trick to change our resent victory along with every other victory to defeat but reach singularity as well?"

"Right as the Scourge could change history if we can't get to this artifact before the Scourge this mission just got a lot more important." Said Gemini "let's hope we get there before the Scourge do."

"Sam Just so you know." Said Kim as she walked over to the window and proceeded to look out of the ships window. "This ship is very vulnerable more than Gemini will admit."

"Don't worry I am here." Said Sam. "Besides we have our escort if we need it still I don't plan on putting your ship in harms way Kristal."

"Thanks i appreciate that." Said Kristal. "So what's the plan?"

"Drop in grab the artifact then extract." Said Sam looking towards Kristal. "What else would we

do?"

"You do realise." Said Kim. "That we don't have drop pods on this ship."

"Yep." Said Sam. "My plan was to just jump out the airlock and enter a controlled freefall to the surface of the moon. Then grab the artifact and finally vaporize it to the cargo bay of the Eternity."

"Sam if I may add something." Said Kim. "I think you might be underestimating the potential scourge reaction to the us trying to acquire the artifact."

"Errr." Said Sam looking slightly annoyed. "I think I could do it."

"Sam." said Kristal. "Asking for help doesn't make you look bad we are here to help."

"Yeah." Said Sam. "I know were all on the same team and I definitely will accept any help that is offered."

"Fantastic." Said Kristal. "Now let's help Gemini retrieve this artifact and then take it back to Triangulum."

Eternity  
Bridge

"Good news Kira." Said Gemini striding onto the bridge alongside Kim holding the fragment.  
"Sam and Jack have provided us with a fragment to use instead of an AI."

"Awesome." Said Kira from the captains chair. "If you want to connect it the Holographic planning table is available and I think it has the right connection on it for a fragment."

"Ok." Said Gemini walking over to the holographic planning table. "I will get it set up."

"You might want to be quick about that." Said Kristal as she walked up to the holographic planning table and tapped on its surface suddenly a 3D full colour Starmap appeared above the holographic planning table and showed that the fleet was about to drop torsion. "As I believe were about to drop torsion."

"Ok." Said Gemini as she placed the fragment on the holographic planning table and tapped the connect button. "I'm ready."

Suddenly 8 small living Cables extended out of the holographic planning table and slowly connected to the fragment.

Once the cables were connected the fragments deep red spherical avatar appeared above the

holographic planning table.

"Select preferred designation." Said the fragment. "Awaiting response."

"Right." Said Gemini with a slightly puzzled expression. "Preferred designation is Lauren."

"Processing information please standby." Said the fragment as her avatar began to reconfigure into her full form. "Connection to Eternity's subsystems complete, analysing."

"Gemini." Said Kira leaning forward slightly in the captain's chair. "How's it going?"

"So far so good." Said Kim looking back towards Kira. "I think the fragment is pretty much set up."

"All systems online." Said Lauren as her deep red avatar brushed some of her shoulder length hair out of her eyes before crossing her arms. "How can I help?"

"Once we exit torsion." Said Gemini. "We will need a deep surface scan."

"Understood" Said Lauren. "What exactly am I looking for?"

"We are trying to find an artifact." Said Kim resting her hands on the holographic planning table. "We believe it to be have been involved with humanity's ascension to technological singularity."

"Right." Said Lauren her avatar holding her hands behind her back and standing completely still. "I will see what I can do."

"Thanks." Said Gemini walking over to the bridges main view screen. "How long until we exit torsion."

"37 seconds." Said Kim looking at the holographic planning table. "Standby to exit torsion."

"Standing by to offline torsion drive." Said Lauren. "20 seconds to torsion waveform collapse. 15 Seconds to waveform collapse preparing for deceleration."

"This is acting captain Jack Eden of the 38-9C." Said Jack to the entire fleet over fleetcom1. "We are about to arrive at our destination so prepare to exit torsion and be ready for scourge contact acting captain Jack Eden out."

"Torsion waveform collapsing." Said Lauren her avatar holding her arms by her side. "Arrival at Genricar-1477 moon 17 imminent."

Suddenly everything on the Eternity's bridge that was not anchored to the ship was flung

forward. Then with a massively loud bang Genricar-1477 moon 17 came into view through the massive amount of cloud of fine light grey mist.

"Arrival standard orbit achieved." Announced Lauren her avatar turning to look up towards Gemini and Kim. "Initiating deep surface scan, standby for results."

"This is acting captain Jack Eden of the 38-9C." Said Jack to the entire fleet over fleetcom1. "Mission update scourge have been detected by an patrol fleet and are heading our way and contact is imminent. Acting captain Jack Eden out."

Suddenly all of the Titan Core Ships brought there Acrpcrthum armour tanks online.

"Lauren prepare to deploy to the surface." Said Gemini. "As your not cleared to be on the bridge without me."

"Understood finalising scanning subroutines." Said Lauren her avatar disappearing once again into the holographic planning table Before reappearing 30 seconds later holding her hands behind her back. "All surface scans have been completed I have found the artifact it's at surface grid 22-3-4-511. Ready when you are."

"Right Kim I am going to need to interface directly with Lauren." Said Gemini as the living cables that connected her to Kim were disengaged at both ends and they fell to the floor with a thud and was quickly picked up by the bridge link officer who then turned around and walked off the bridge. "I will pick up the connection later ok."

"Ah." Said Kim. "No worries."

"Sam." Said Gemini as she carefully retracted the living cables connected to Lauren's fragment before carefully picking it up and holding it near her back. "Can you find Kristal and prepare for intimidate surface deployment?"

"Yeah sure." Said Sam turning to walk off the bridge. "I will prepare our gear too."

"Thanks." Said Gemini as living cables extended out of her back and connected to Lauren's fragment. "You tend to think of everything."

"I know." Said Sam looking back towards Gemini as she stepped off the bridge to find Kristal. "I am here to look out for you and that's what I intend to do."

"Systems are online." Said Lauren through the living cables as she brought the organic HUD online in Gemini's vision. "Were good to go."

"Awesome." Said Gemini. "let's get to the airlock."

"Very well." Said Lauren through the living cables placing a small navigation marker on the organic HUD. "The destination is set but I must warn you that we are going to need escort if your plan is to go to ground."

"Don't worry." Said Gemini as both her and Kim started to walk off the bridge. "We do have Kim, Sam and Kristal as well as you we have got this covered."

"Gemini I have found Kristal." Said Sam over the comms as Gemini and Kim left the bridge and entered the narrow corridors that ran throughout the ship. "We are proceeding to the airlock marked by Lauren."

"Understood." Said Kim over the comms as they passed two of the bridge security officers. "Were almost there any news from Jack on the Status of the Scourge fleet."

"That's a negative." Said Sam over the comms. "But there probably very close by now."

"This is acting captain Jack Eden the Scourge have been detected at the far side of the planet." "Said Jack over fleetcom1. "The fleet is moving to engage."

"I recommend being quick on the artifact retrieval front." Said Kim as they hurried past a window that showed the massive amounts of human ships moving into swarm formation. "As the Scourge are very likely to call for backup and we only have limited ships available on this mission."

"Don't worry." Said Lauren calmly through the living cables as they turned a corner in the corridor and began to near the hull of the ship. "We'll make this work."

Suddenly the Scourge fleet began to fire massive amounts of acid and spines towards the human fleet.

Which responded by opening fire with it's own weapons systems.

Suddenly a huge spine from a scourge dreadnought impacted the starboard side of the Eternity causing an explosive decompression.

"Woah." Said Kim as she was thrown towards and grabbed hold of the nearby wall. "I think we might of sustained some damage there."

"Lauren." Said Gemini sounding worried as she regained her balance and brushed a bit of hair out of her eye. "What was that?"

"Based on the vibrations we felt the most likely cause is of the damage is Scourge dreadnought." Said Lauren over the living cables "I recommend staying away from the hull of the ship."

"Good idea." Said Gemini over the living cables "still you might want to scan the ship for scourge lifeforms."

"Don't worry." Said Lauren over the living cables. "The scan I conducted a few seconds ago was clear."

"Ok." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Still I would keep an eye out."

"Sure." Said Lauren over the living cables as they arrived at the airlock's inner door. "No problem."

Eternity  
Airlock

"Good." Said Sam as the light glinted off her armor as she lent her back against the airlock wall holding her signature assault chain gun. Which had ornate engravings and the inscription. "Finite patience infinite firepower." Written on the side of it. "You got here ok."

"Yep." Said Gemini. "You both ready."

"Oh yeah." Said Kristal as she loudly pulled back the bolt of her shard rifle till it almost touched her armor in order to load the rifle first shard. Before ramming it back in to load the shard into the firing chamber. "Were ready."

"Great." Said Gemini as a mass of arms carrying bits of her and Kim's armor deployed out of the airlocks ceiling and began to fit themselves onto Gemini and Kim with the help of many maneuverable arms. "Were almost ready."

"Due to Gemini not being cleared to handle weapons in this corporation." Said Kristal as Kim's armor was fitted. "Kim will be set to look after her."

"Understood." Said Sam as she and Kristal put on there helmets and locked them into place with electromagnets causing a small hiss of air to escape through the gap as it closed. "Were almost in range to make the jump."

"Right then." Said Gemini as she and Kim secured there helmets. "let's do this."

"10 seconds till were over the target." Said Kira over the ships intercom. "Standby for deployment."

"Right then." Said Sam as she and Kristal secured there assault chain gun and shard rifle on the magnetic locks on the back of there armor before turning to face the airlocks outer door. "It's

go time."

"Alright." Said Kim as she secured her lightening rifle onto the magnetic lock on the back of her armor. "Ready."

Suddenly the airlock was opened and the massive force cause by the rush of escaping air in combination with the airlocks magnetic catapult launched Sam, Kristal, Kim, Lauren and Gemini out of the airlock and catapulted them straight into the battle raging outside.

Then suddenly Sam's eyes lost focus and her 3 spines returned to normal Then suddenly there was huge bang and a shield of solidified dark matter shattered into many fragments of dark matter.

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain." Said the weapons officer said whilst looking at the telemetry being forwarded to him by the Eternity. "The artifact retrieval team has been deployed and are in route to there objective."

"What about the Scourge." Said Jack leaning forward in the captains chair. "Have they noticed them yet."

"I don't think so." Said the weapons officer looking at the holographic sensors readout. "They seem to be far more interested in engaging the rest of the fleet."

"Right." Said Jack looking over towards the weapons officer. "let's keep it that way."

"Understood." Said the weapons officer as he began to rapidly tap commands into his holographic weapons console. "Getting there attention."

Suddenly the 27-4A launched a massive assault at the nearest Scourge carrier sending thousands of singularity missiles and Heavy ION cannon beams flying across space illuminating the missiles smoke with a bright blue light as they shot past the missiles.

The Heavy ION cannons beams and singularity missiles impacted the nearest Scourge carrier with such force that a large portion of it's armor shattered into a cloud of blood and crystal.

"This is acting captain Jack Eden to all dreadnoughts." Said Jack leaning forward slightly so as to get a better look at the Bridges holographic planning table. "Scourge carrier 1377-44B is primary."

Immediately all of the Titan Core dreadnoughts switched target to the Scourge carrier and

began to send a barrage of Heavy ION cannon and singularity missile fire towards the scourge carrier.

"Acting captain our fleet has engaged your target." Said the weapons officer looking at his holographic sensors console. "There tank is breaking I estimate 32 seconds to it's destruction."

"Understood." Said Jack leaning back in the captain's chair. "What's the status of the artifact team."

"They have just de-orbited and will be reaching the upper atmosphere within 4 minutes." Said Sarah who was standing next to the captains chair her white and transparent shoulder length hair dangled over her shoulders and her deep red eyes reflected the environment around her as she tapped commands into her table. "Should I deploy the droneswarm as escort."

"They will definitely need cover once there in the atmosphere." Said Jack looking towards Sarah. "So permission to deploy is granted."

"Understood." Said Sarah as she brushed her hair out of her eyes and tucked it behind her left ear before proceeding to rapidly tap commands into here tablet. "I will notify drone operations immediately."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
freefall

"Lauren." Said Gemini over the living cables. "How far are we from the artifact."

"Not far." Said Lauren over the living cables as she added an objective marker to Gemini's living HUD. "We are 127,000 meters above the artifact which means at our current rate of decent we will make landfall in 90 seconds."

"Great." Said Gemini over the living cables. "let's just hope the Scourge are kept busy in space so we can do what we need to do on the surface."

"Warning sensors indicate that there is a class r-1X plasma storm moving into this star system. The storm is estimated to arrive in 32 minutes." Said Lauren over the living cables as Gemini, Kirstal, Sam, Lauren and Kim passed a large Scourge carrier that began to launch interceptors in response to there presence. "Recommend we keep the artifact retrieval to under 25 minutes."

"Err Gemini." Said Sam as an interceptor went flying past her. "I think we have company."

"Understood." Said Gemini maneuvering herself so she was falling closer to Sam and Kim. "let's get past them."

"I think it's them that are going to have to get past me." Said Kristal. "Watch this."

Suddenly Kristal reached back and grabbed her shard rifle off the magnetic lock on her back and swiftly pointed it towards the nearest Scourge interceptor and pulled the trigger.

Suddenly the shard rifle kicked back into her shoulder and sent a large deep red crystal shooting through space towards the interceptor.

Seconds later it slammed into the interceptor sending bits of crystal shooting through it's maneuvering muscles causing it to spin out of control and crash into another interceptor.

The resulting impact breached the interceptors pressurized acid storage bladder causing it to explode sending blood and crystal from both ships flying towards Sam.

"Woah that was close." Yelled Sam as she created a singularity in the middle of the blood and crystal so as to not get hit by it. "Kirstal next time try not to send the bits of the interceptor my way."

"Sorry." Said Kristal as she quickly reloaded her shard rifle and prepared to engage another interceptor. "I thought you were 1 meter further to the right."

"Not a problem." Said Sam as she grabbed her assault chaingun off the electromagnetic lock on her back and sent a hail of bullets towards an interceptor that was headed straight for her causing it to explode spectacularly into a cloud of blood and crystal. "I was able to handle it."

"Stay focused." Said Kim taking her lightening rifle off the electromagnetic lock on the back of her armor before powering it on causing it to give off an electric whine and emit a small amount of blue light. "Were not done yet."

Suddenly a group of 5 Scourge interceptors came flying up from the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 straight towards Gemini.

"Don't worry." Said Kim as she quickly aimed at the group of Scourge interceptors and pulled the trigger on her lighting rifle. "I have got this"

Suddenly the lighting rifle kicked back slightly and sent a bolt of bright blue lightning rushing towards the group of interceptors.

The bolt impacted the lead ship and proceed to chain to the nearby ships causing them to explode into a cloud of blood, crystal and electricity.

"Hostiles neutralised." Said Kim as she as well as Sam, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal maneuvered quickly around the debris that came rushing towards them from the destruction of the interceptors. "Brace for atmospheric contact."

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain." Said Sarah as she tapped a series of commands into her tablet so as to re orientate the view of the holographic planning table onto Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal. "Sam is reporting that they have just completed insertion into the upper atmosphere."

"Ok." Said Jack looking towards Sarah. "What's the status on the Scourge."

"Still engaging Sam, Kim, Gemini Lauren and Kristal." Said Sarah as the holographic planning table zoomed into focus on Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal falling through the atmosphere towards the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17. "The droneswarm should be with them shortly."

"Awesome." Said Jack as he looked at the holographic planning table. "Keep me updated."

"Understood." Said Sarah having to brush her hair back behind her ear again as it was in front of her eyes again and thus obstructing her view. "I will personally keep an eye on them."

"Thanks Sarah." Said Jack looking back towards Sarah. "I really appreciate your help."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
freefall

"Droneswarm has arrived." Said Lauren over the living cables. "They will cover us during our decent."

Suddenly with a massive bang 3500 heavy combat drones entered the atmosphere and maneuvered at high speed around Sam, Kim, Gemini and Kristal.

Once the heavy combat drones acquired there targets they began to deliver 5 second bursts of their heavy singularity repeaters.

"Holster weapons." Said Sam as she attached her assault chaingun to the magnetic lock on the back of her armor. "The drones will take it from here."

"This is acting captain Jack Eden the mission is now in progress." Said Jack over fleetcom1. "Hold the orbital line and don't let any Scourge slip though as the artifact retrieval team have enough to deal with."

"Nice to see we have support." Said Kim as she secured her lightning rifle onto the magnetic

lock on her back as the droneswarm loudly engaged the Scourge with thousands of bursts from there heavy singularity repeaters. "After all I wouldn't want to attempt something like this without this level of backup."

"Approaching shock layer." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Contact with shock layer in 14.2 seconds."

"Lauren says were coming on the shock layer." Said Gemini as her armor began to glow a light red due to air-Resistance. "Stand by for contact with shock layer."

Suddenly there was a series of loud bangs and there armor began to glow white hot.

Then within a second 47 meter long plasma trails had formed behind Sam, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal.

"Warning Our thermal signature is growing exponentially." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Initiating zero visibility HUD mode."

"Lauren?" Asked Gemini over the living cables as the living HUD changed to show the environment around her so as to enable her to see past the plasma that was obstructing her vision. "What's our the status on our communications?"

"Communications are offline." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I will reset them once we decelerate and the plasma trails subside."

"Awesome." Said Gemini. "Thanks."

Suddenly 5 Scourge interceptors flew past them at high speed.

Then a second later 200 heavy combat drones flew past them and proceeded to engage the Scourge interceptors with loud 5 second bursts from there heavy singularity repeaters.

"Stand by for surface contact." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Estimated 35 seconds to surface contact."

"Thanks Lauren." Said Gemini over the living cables. "I mean it would be even better if we could see through these plasma trails."

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain." Said Sarah. "Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal are about to come back on comms as there plasma trails are dissipating."

"Ok." Said Jack. "Keep up the droneswarm support and keep the Scourge away from Sam and Gemini."

"Getting overprotective are we." Said Sarah crossing her arms and looking over towards Jack. "I was the same."

"Really?" Said Jack looking over towards Sarah. "What happened?"

"Well" Said Sarah. "Do you remember the battle on Hosstt."

"Yeah Sam was there." Said Jack. "Why do you ask."

"Backup arrived but it was too late to save the love of my life." Said Sarah. "If I had known it would have been the last time I would see him I would of said something more. That morning I had a weird feeling that he should of stayed home but I never asked."

"I am sorry for your loss truly I am." Said Jack. "But if we don't win the war against the Scourge more lives will be ruined."

"Agreed." Said Sarah looking frustrated and angry. "let's take them down."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
freefall

"Comms re-established." Said Lauren over the living cables as the plasma that had been surrounding Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal suddenly dissipated and the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 began to come into view below them. "30 seconds to surface."

"Ok." Said Sam over the comms as she corrected her heading. "We are almost at the surface once were on the ground we won't have long to find the artifact. Not to mention we have to get there before the scourge."

"Well the good news is we're almost there" Said Kim as she passed through a thin layer of cloud. "Once were on the ground I will protect Gemini whilst we move to the artifact."

"Right." Said Sam. "Myself and Kristal will take point. Whatever happens you both stay behind us ok. I Don't want either of you to be put in any unnecessary danger after all I believe that the squad leader should put themselves in as much if not more danger than there squad."

"Don't worry." Said Kristal. "We will be ok."

"Were almost there." Said Sam looking towards the ground that was now only 1500 meters

from below her. "Initiate deceleration."

Suddenly the electromagnetic deceleration wetware in Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal activated and slowed them down to a safe speed in a cloud of purple mist before they slammed into the ground with a loud thump doing a 3 point superhero landing with there right feet and knees on one side and there left feet on the ground on the other side. All whilst placing there right hands on the ground and holding there left hands high in the air. Causing a separate 7 meter wide and 1 meter deep hole in the riverbank below each them sending mud bits of rock as well as bits of wood and green foliage flying through the air.

"Ok." Said Sam looking up at the bright yellow rays of light that were coming down through the jungles dense canopy. "Were on the ground so let's get towards the artifact before the Scourge do."

"Agreed." Said Kristal. "Let's go."

"I should be able to triangulate the artifact Based on the local space-time distortions." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Until then I recommend we get out of this area as the scourge were following us during the descent and they no doubt know we made landfall."

"Sam." Said Gemini gesturing in the upstream direction. "Lauren's recommending we leave the area."

"Agreed." Said Sam as she detached her assault chain gun from the magnetic lock on her back and began to walk upstream. "I don't want to be here when the Scourge arrive."

"Do we have a reading yet?" Asked Kristal as she detached her assault chain gun from the magnetic lock on her back and began to fall into formation behind Sam. "Or is it proving hard to locate?"

"I haven't been able to triangulate the artifact." Said Lauren. "There are over 2000 signatures and only one of them can be the artifact. The scourge must know what we are here for and as a result deployed countermeasures to make it harder to locate the artifact."

"Sam just as a heads up." Said Gemini as she followed Sam over a fallen tree trunk. "The Scourge have deployed countermeasures and Lauren can't find the real signature for the artifact over more than 2000 decoy ones."

"Yeah I can feel the decoys too." Said Sam as she brushed a large plant out of her way  
"However I can also feel the location of the real one as well. It is quite far from our current position though."

"Wow." Said Kim as she followed Sam and took her lightening rifle off the magnetic lock on her back. "That's really useful."

"It sure is." Said Sam as she ducked under a low branch "Even better is that I don't think the Scourge know that I can feel where it is so as for now we have the advantage."

## Chapter 3

### Contact

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain." Said Sarah looking at her tablet. "Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal are on the ground and are on the move out of the riverbank that there in at the moment."

"Understood." Said Jack looking towards Sarah. "Divert a few drones to their position to cover them from Scourge that are in the atmosphere."

"Acting captain." Said the Tactical officer. "We have multiple Scourge capital ships moving into a firing position above Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal."

"Understood." Said Jack looking over to the tactical officer. "Take them down."

"Yes sir." Said the Tactical officer as he tapped a long string of commands into his holographic console before dramatically tapping the fire button. "Firing."

Suddenly there was a loud thump that reverberated throughout the 38-9C as 25,000 Singularity missiles went shooting out of there launchers and with thousands of bright pulses of purple light accelerated to maximum velocity.

"Sarah." Said Jack as he glanced towards the holographic planing table. "Can you put the capital ships on the holographic planning table full color?"

"Yes sir." Said Sarah tapping a few quick commands into her tablet. "There."

Suddenly the holographic planning table began to display a full color holographic representation of the Singularity missiles.

Then just seconds later the Singularity missiles slammed into the Scourge capital ships just as the Scourge capital ships got into position.

The Scourge capital ships imploded with massive force causing the ships to be crushed into an area just meters wide before detonating sending blood, acid and shards of crystal shooting off into space at high velocity.

Eternity

Bridge

"Acting captain Kira." Said the comms officer. "We are receiving a very faint distress signal from a civilian couple on the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17."

"Understood initiate comms voice only." Said Kira looking over the shoulder of the comms officer as the comms was put through. "This is acting captain Kira of the Gemini Holdings flagship Eternity currently on mission how can we be of assistance?"

"Hi my name is Zoe Kari and I am with my partner Karren." Said Zoe in a panicked over the comms. "We have been trying to get a signal for over 5 hours and are were chased by the Scourge to the edge of the Inerian wildlife preserve. But we managed to lose them in a old ruin."

"Ok listen to me." Said the comms officer. "If the Scourge haven't found you stay put otherwise get into cover and try to stay out of sight."

"Acting captain Kira." Said the tactical officer. "We don't have the resources to help them and the 38-9C and the rest our escort is currently engaged."

"Understood get Jack to contact Titan Core and request transport for the civilians." Said Kira. "And update Gemini on the current situation."

"Yes sir." Said the secondary comms officer. "right away."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve

"Ok were heading inside." Said Zoe as the wind rushed through her dark blue hair as it blew across the clear blue lake she and Karren were standing in front of. Reflecting the lake into her brown eyes. "Karren let's get back inside they don't want us in the open."

"Ok." Said Karren her orange-brown hair blowing around in the wind. Whilst looking slightly nervously towards the entrance to the ruin with her hazel eyes. "Let's get in there."

"We have assets on the way to extract you." Said the Eternity's comms officer. "In the mean time you need to drop the call so that the Scourge can't use it to triangulate your position. Don't worry we have triangulated your position and will be sending transport as soon as we can."

"Ok." Said Zoe dropping the call before grabbing Karren's hand whilst beginning to scramble down the steep plant covered path that lead into the ruin. "Stay with me."

"Woah." Said Karren in a surprised voice as she slipped on some loose dirt and began to fall before getting caught by Zoe. "Thanks."

Genricar-1477 moon 17

"Gemini I have a mission update there is a civilian couple on the surface that Titan Core is going to try to extract as soon as possible." Said Lauren over the living cables as Gemini jumped over a low tree trunk. "However in case transport is unavailable we are the backup plan."

"Mission update." Said Gemini as she stopped and held hand up in the hold position gesture. "Hold position."

"Alright Gemini go ahead." Said Sam as she Kim and Kristal came to sudden halt and raised their weapons. "As we need to keep moving if we are to avoid the Scourge that are pursuing us."

"The Eternity has received a distress call from a civilian couple on the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17." Said Gemini. "We may need to assist if there transport fails to retrieve them."

"Understood." Said Kristal as she Sam, Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal resumed walking. "Let's move."

"Sam." Said Kim as she ducked under a branch. "How close are we to the artifact?"

"Not very close." Said Sam sighing as She ,Kim ,Gemini ,Lauren and Kristal walked under a small waterfall. "I can sense we are about 11,000 meters from the artifact but we are still in for a bit of a walk."

"Well said Kim as she Sam, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal resumed their walk up the ravine. "Let's get going then."

Suddenly there was a rush of air as the droneswarm circled back around and banked hard and flew off into the distance to scout.

"Well." Said Sam as she brushed past a spiky bush in the ravine. "There definitely not quiet."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve

"Woah." Said Zoe as they entered the ruin. "It's almost like it's a cave."

"Or built inside of one." Said Karren as she followed close behind Zoe. "Anyway we should stay near the entrance so that we are easier to get to."

"Agreed." Said Zoe gesturing towards a pillar that had fallen down nearby. "We can't go much further without a light source anyway."

Eternity  
Bridge

"Acting captain Kira." Said the comms officer. "I just received confirmation from Titan Core that they are sending transport for the civilians from a nearby fleet that was on patrol nearby."

"Fantastic." Said Kira. "How long till they arrive."

"Won't be for a while." Said the comms officer. "They only just entered torsion."

"Very well." Said Kira walking over to the holographic planning table and tapping some buttons to bring up the surface map. "We need to get to the civilians before the Scourge do."

"Acting captain Kira." Said the tactical officer. "A small group of Scourge ships have broken formation and are hedging this way."

"Yeah I can see them." Said Kira as she watched the scourge ships moving towards them on the holographic planning table. "Helm commence evasive manoeuvres."

"Yes sir." Said the helm officer whilst tapping commands into the nearby holographic flight console. "Our escort has been informed and I am proceeding with the manoeuvre."

Suddenly the Scourge ships that had broken formation engaged Eternity sending a hail of acid and spines straight towards the Eternity.

Due to the evasive manoeuvres from the Eternity almost the entire salvo of weapons fire missed the Eternity.

However a small amount of acid managed to collide with the hull burning a hole through there armor.

"Acting captain Kira." Said the Engineering officer whilst looking at the holographic representation of the Eternity above the console. "The scourge just breached the primary dark fusion core containment manifold we have 15 minutes before the dark fusion core detonates."

"Understood." Said Kira bringing up the ships that were chasing them on holographic planing table. "The resulting explosion will take out the Scourge ships in pursuit. Which means we should abandon then scuttle the Eternity. Comms tell the 38-9C to vaporize us over."

"Right away." Said the comms officers tapping away on a nearby holographic console so as to open up comms to the 38-9C. "This is Eternity to 38-9C we have experienced a breach of the primary dark fusion core and require immediate vaporization to your ship."

"This is acting captain Kira to all personnel." Said Kira over the intercom "We have experienced a breach of the primary dark fusion core and are preparing to vaporise over to the 38-9C."

"Acting captain Kira" Said the comms officer. "The 38-9C is standing by to vaporise us over."

"Thank you comms." Said Kira walking over to the captains chair and sitting down. "Engineering if you can do the Honors."

"Yes sir." Said the Engineering officer tapping a long series of commands into the holographic console. "We have 90 seconds to get to minimum safe distance."

"Comms." Said Kira leaning forward slightly. "Let the 38-9C know that were ready to vaporise."

"Yes sir notifying 38-9C." Said the Comms officer tapping commands into the holographic console. "They report the vaporise is in progress."

Suddenly there was a huge bang and the inside of the Eternity was filled with a glowing bright green mist as all the everything that wasn't attached to the ship was vaporized to the 38-9C.

Genricar-1477 moon 17

"Mission update" said Lauren over the living cables. "The Eternity's been destroyed and her crew have been transferred to the 38-9C."

"Sam we just lost the Eternity." Said Gemini as she carefully made her way over the rocks that had fallen into the ravine. "But it's crew were able to relocate to the 38-9C."

"Wow." Said Kirstal. "They really don't make starships like they used to do they."

"Kirstal keep comms clear please as we might be about to have bigger problems." Said Sam stopping briefly to shake her head so as to dislodge some of hair that had fallen into her eye.

"The artifact is still very far away and I am not sure we will be able to get to it before the Scourge in time if we continue on foot."

"You say that like you have a better idea." Said Kim leaning against a nearby tree. "Do you have a better idea."

"I believe so." Said Sam stopping and turning around to face Kim, Gemini, Lauren and Kristal. "I

think the best course of action would be to vaporise to the artifact."

"So Sam." Said Kirstal. "I take it your certain that you know which signature is the real artifact?"

"Yep." Said Sam holding out her hand. "That's what we have been following after all."

"Then let's do it." Said Kim taking hold of Sam's outstretched hand. "I mean we have to reach it before the Scourge do."

"Your right there." Said Kristal as she and Gemini grabbed hold of Sam's hand. "If the Scourge get there first it's all over."

"Right then." Said Sam breathing out slightly before bringing up the vaporise subroutines on her HUD. "Hold on tight."

Suddenly there was a huge bang and Sam, Gemini, Lauren Kristal and Kim vanished into a glowing bright green mist that filled the ravine.

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve  
cavern

"What is that." Said Zoe as she and Karren spotted a huge black monolith glistening in the light seeping in to the room from outside due to all of it's elaborate engravings. "It's huge."

The artifact was a huge black monolith made of crumbling jet black stone that stood 15 meters tall.

It was three sided and was covered in elaborate engravings that were tinted green and gold.

The artifact was also radiating green-gold energy into the surrounding air which was flowing over it's surface and rising off it and up into the air.

Suddenly there was a huge bang that reverberated throughout the cavern and the scourge breached through a nearby wall sending debris flying across the room.

"The Scourge." Yelled Karren as she dived sideways grabbing Zoe as she went before crashing to the floor behind a section of rock that had fallen in from the ceiling. "Get down."

"Ahhh." Said Karren as she suddenly felt a sharp pain shoot out of her now broken shoulder. "I think I broke my shoulder."

"Stay down I don't think they have seen us." Said Zoe trying to keep panic out of her voice. "We

need to stay still and out of sight until backup arrives."

Suddenly the Scourge reached the artifact and with a series of rapid flashes of blue light disappeared.

Then there was another huge bang that reverberated throughout the cavern and the cavern was filled with an orange mist.

Suddenly Sam, Gemini, Lauren Kristal and Kim walked out of the mist readying there weapons as they went.

"Right." Said Sam looking around the cavern. "Secure the area then notify the 38-9C that were ready for extraction."

"Right." Said Kristal and Kim at the same time before walking off towards the two side walls of the narrow cavern walls. "Securing area."

"Gemini." Said Lauren over the living cables as she added two orange lifeforms indicators to the organic HUD. "Be advised were not alone in here I am picking up two lifeform signatures. One is strong and the other one is weaker."

"Sam." Said Gemini "Lauren's picking up two lifeform signatures in here they may be the civilians were that were in trouble earlier I recommend we find them as quickly as possible."

"Were over here." Yelled Zoe. "Behind the rock."

"On my way." Said Sam as she walked over to the fallen rock. "Samantha Charles Eden captain of the Titan Core Battleyard 38-9C on station ready to assist."

"Were ok." Said Zoe looking up towards Sam. "The Scourge disappeared just seconds before you arrived."

"What." Said Sam. "The scourge can't do that."

"Unless they used the artifact." Said Gemini. "In which Case we need to follow them through it."

"Agreed but first we need to get the civilians back to the surface so that the titan Core Transport can pick them up." Said Sam. "Take them someplace safe."

"Oww my shoulder." Said Karren Clearly in quite a lot of pain. "I don't think I will be able to get there on my own."

"Not to worry." Said Sam as she bent down and picked up Karren. "I can carry you out."

"Clear." Yelled Kristal and Kim at the same time before running back over to Sam. "Area secure."

"Understood Contact the Titan Core transport." Said Sam. "Tell them to meet us on the surface in 1 minute."

"Right away." Said Gemini as she switched to the Titan Core comms network. "This is Gemini Eden we have secured the two civilians one of which has a broken shoulder and are transporting them to the surface. Where we will need pickup estimated time to landing zone is 1 minute."

"Copy that." Said the Transport pilot over the comms network. "We are commencing our de-orbit burn now."

"Copy that." Said Gemini as she, Sam, Lauren Kristal and Kim Began to run back out of the cavern and back through the ruin "Were inbound."

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain Jack." Said the Comms officer. "I have Just received word that that the civilians have been located and are being escorted to the landing zone to regroup with the Titan Core transport."

"Understood." Said Jack leaning forward in the captains chair and looking at the holographic planing table. "And what about the artifact?"

"One of the civilians has reported that a group of scourge disappeared." Said the comms officer. "All signs are pointing to them having used it."

"Right." Said Jack. "Change of plans. Before we can retrieve the artifact we need to to go through the artifact and restore the timeline before it gets changed beyond recognition."

"Yes sir." Said the comms officer tapping away at the holographic console. "Transmitting new mission parameters to ground team now."

Suddenly there was a massive bang as a large number of spines collided with the ship at the same time.

When the spines hit they cut a hole deep into the ship fracturing the primary arc fusion manifold causing blood surging with raw energy to burst out of the weakened sections and begin to flood the lower decks of the ship.

"Acting Captain we just lost the primary arc fusion manifold." Said the engineering officer in a worried tone looking down at the engineering holographic console. "I am attempting to compensate standby."

"Right get everyone off the decks where the primary arc fusion manifold has been compromised." Said Jack looking somewhat concerned as a single volley or spines rarely did this much damage in one hit. "Then shove everything onto the remaining arc fusion manifolds."

"Jack That's not going to give us enough power for our weapons systems and our armor tank." said Kira as she came to a stop behind the captains chair. "Those systems require the power to be available from primary arc fusion manifold if you move the load onto the backup arc fusion manifolds you will most likely burn them out."

"We know the risks." Said Sarah in a serious tone. "But we can't loose this ship as it's providing over half of the fleets processing power not to mention the droneswarm is tethered to this ship as well we cant afford to lose the droneswarm either."

"Understood Initiating override on primary arc fusion manifold." Said the engineering officer rapidly tapping away at the holographic console. "Power has been rerouted to the backup arc fusion manifolds they are now operating at maximum."

"Weapons." Said Jack. "Return fire on the ship that did all of this damage."

"yes sir." Said the weapons officer tapping a rapid string of commands into his holographic console. "Engaging."

Suddenly there was a loud thump and 1000 heavy singularity missiles went shooting towards the Scourge Battleship.

The missiles impacted the side of the scourge battleship with such force that a large chunk of armor was blown off sending blood and crystal flying into space.

"First salvo ineffective recalibrating." Announced the weapons officer looking over to his targeting screen. "Firing salvo two."

Suddenly there was an even louder thump and 3000 missiles went shooting across space.

Then they collided with the Scourge battleship and detonated the resulting explosion created a singularity so big that both the Scourge battleship and it's entire escort fleet were slammed together with explosive force.

Leaving nothing but bits of burnt crystal and blood floating where the ship used to be.

"Well that was pretty decisive." Said Kira to the weapons officer. "But next time try to conserve missiles as they don't come cheap you know."

"Kira's right." Said Jack. "Each one of those Heavy singularity missiles costs as much as a small frigate."

"Right." Said The weapons officer. "I see if I can use less next time."

"Don't worry about it." Said Kira who was laughing so much she was having to lean on the back of the weapons console for support . "Were here to win not do the budget."

"Yeah the budget is sorted in the offices Titan Core has on New Ria." Said Jack sitting back in the captains chair. "Anyway let's get back to the action."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve

As Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe Karren and Kim reached the surface they saw a massive space-time ripple of bright red and purple light pass through everything around them.

Then suddenly the 38-9C was hit by an unknown Scourge weapon system fired from a ship that none of them had ever seen before.

The 38-9C detonated causing a massive chain reaction that Destroyed over half the Titan Core fleet in a matter of seconds.

Then suddenly Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe, Karren and Kim where hit by a massive shock wave which catapulted them back down into the cavern where they landed hard near the artifact and with a flash of blue light the artifact activated.

Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe Karren and Kim then found themselves rapidly traveling down a bright blue tunnel that pulsed with blue light.

"Ok this I did not expect." Said Gemini looking around her whilst shielding her eyes from the bright blue light with her wrist. "Where to do you think we will end up."

"Not sure." Said Sam looking around her. "But my guess is it's somewhere the scourge see as important in there plans."

"Your probably right." Said Kristal as she flew past Sam. "They are probably planing to change the timeline to win the war at any cost."

"Interesting theory you have there." Said Gemini still shielding her eyes from the bright blue light with her wrist. "But still how would they know where and when to go to?"

"No idea." Said Sam who was now slightly ahead of Gemini. "But whatever they are planing it can't be good."

# Act II

## Continuity

## Chapter 4

# Unknown

### Unknown Time period

Location Unknown

Suddenly the exit of the tunnel shot towards them and before they could do anything Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe, Karren and Kim were catapulted through the air and slammed onto the ground a few meters away from the artifact in a small grassy clearing surround by trees that was being hammered by a massive rainstorm. Causing the ground to be covered in muddy puddles.

"I think." Said Kristal out of breath. "That we were sent through the artifact."

"I can't believe we lost the 38-9C." Said Sam sitting up. "Everyone on it killed by the Scourge."

"Something tells me." Said Kristal using a nearby rock to pull herself upright. "That we might still be able to save them."

"Meaning." Said Sam. slightly aggressively. "Think about it Sarah and Jack are both dead."

"You forget what the artifact does. It creates a rift in space-time." Said Kristal. "Which means that what just happened to us has not happened yet meaning that time is on our side."

"Your saying were in the past right?" Said Gemini. "So where did the cavern go?"

"I may be able to answer that." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I am picking up some kind of transmission in a language that has the right sonic profile to be human but does not fit with any known language."

"Interesting." Said Gemini over the living cables. "See if you can decipher it."

"Sure I will start right away." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Also be advised that wherever we are doesn't exist on any of our maps and due to stellar drift I am unable to use the stars to pinpoint our position."

"Sam Lauren is unable to figure out our position." Said Gemini. "Lauren also says that there is some kind of transmission that she is trying to decipher as well."

"Understood." Said Sam. "Tell her to hide all of our signatures and to not transmit anything as

we don't want any of this planets inhabitants knowing we are here."

"Already done." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Is there anything else you need me to do."

"Can you triangulate our position." Said Gemini over the living cables. "As the more information we can get about where we are the better."

"Right I will see what I can do." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Still I am not sure how easy it will be without knowing anything about this planet."

"And what about us." Said Zoe who had pulled herself upright and was leaning against a nearby rock whilst holding onto Karren shoulder so it wouldn't get dislocated. "What should we do?"

"Your two should stay with Sam as she can easily look after you both." Said Kristal crossing her arms and leaning against a rock for support. "As for the rest of us we need to track down the Scourge before they irreversibly change the future."

"If anything happens to Gemini." Said Sam gesturing towards Kristal. "I will be holding you and Kim responsible. You know that right."

"Nothing will happen to her." Said Kristal as she detached her assault chain gun from the magnetic lock on her back and brought it into the ready position. "Both myself and Kim can assure you of that."

"You better be right." Said Sam as her spines glowed purple and she projected a stasis field around Karren's shoulder so as to stabilise it and reduce the pain as well as stop the bleeding. "Good luck on your mission and don't forget to maintain stealth I will remain here and if you need me I will be on comms."

"Can't argue with that." Said Karren as she held onto Zoe for support. "After all it means that we don't have to do any walking."

Location Unknown

"Right then." Said Kristal beginning to walk in the direction of the tracks made in the ground by the Scourge. "Everyone else on me."

"Roger that." Said Gemini, Lauren and Kim. As Kim disengaged her lighting rifle from its magnetic lock on her back and fell into formation alongside Gemini and Lauren slightly behind Kristal. "Let's go."

"Gemini I have located our current position." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Were at Debris Field. It's where many people believe the human civilization first evolved making it

humanity true homeworld. So in a way it serves the same role as Origin does for us sustain human life although weirdly all my star maps for this system say that this star system is destroyed at least it is where we come from."

"Thanks Lauren." Said Gemini as she switched to encrypted comms. "Lauren Has located where we are and has confirmed that we are at Debris Field chronology remains unknown."

"Wait a second." Said Kristal. "That means were going to have to be extra careful as if there are humans on this world we can't let them acquire our technology."

"Agreed." Said Kim. "Any change now even a small one could have massive effects on our own timeline."

"Yeah this situation is getting kinda complicated. I do however have awesome 3 step plan." Said Gemini. "Step 1 save the past. Step 2 save the future. Step 3 save Sam's relationship"

"Well if we are successful stopping the Scourge here." Said Kristal "Then the future we return to should be back to normal."

"Sounds good." Said Gemini. "Now Let's go hunt some Scourge."

## Debris Field Surface

Suddenly a scourge lifeform erupted out of the ground hurtling towards Sam sending grass and debris flying through the air.

As Sam spun around and grabbed her assault chaingun off the electromagnetic lock on her back pulled the trigger Sending a hail of fire towards the Scourge lifeforms.

The hail of fire caused the scourge lifeforms to to bleed blood and shards of crystal killing it in seconds.

Unfortunately as the scourge lifeforms died it collapsed and landed on top of Sam impaling her with a section of it's crystalline exoskeleton that was jutting out of it's body at a oblique angle.

Suddenly a jolt of pain shot up two of Sam's three spines as they fractured in multiple locations.

Then due to the amount of pain Sam passed out.

Hearing the gunfire a group primitive humans arrived in a large vehicle with two massive bright white floodlights on the front of it's roof 6 wheels and heavy armor.

Suddenly 5 primitive humans stepped out of the back of the vehicle and seeing Zoe and Karren leaning against a rock. Walked over to them and after seeing Karren's broken shoulder decided to ask if they needed any help in there ancient language.

"What are they?" Said Karren pulling herself closer to Zoe. "Zoe protect us."

"Ok right Your not wanted here please leave now." Said Zoe Standing up to face the primitive humans. "Also she didn't kidnap us she is here with us."

Unfortunately the primitive humans were completely unable to understand what Zoe was saying and as a result they thought that Zoe and Karren had been Kidnapped by Sam.

As a result he grabbed hold of Zoe and Karren and took them forcefully into the vehicle whist the leader of the primitive humans chucked a small explosive devise towards the Scourge.

Then the squads leader walked back over to the vehicle and jumped back in and the primitive lifeforms proceeded to drive off in the direction of the nearest medical facility.

Suddenly the explosive devise exploded catapulting the dead Scourge in one direction and Sam in another.

After flying through the air for all of two seconds unconscious Sam hit a tree and fell down to the ground landing very hard on the section of crystalline exoskeleton that had impaled her pushing it further through her body.

Due to her injures Sam began to bleed heavily and within seconds was lieing in a pool of her own light green blood that was lighting up the trees around her with an Erie green glow.

Debris Field  
Surface

Meanwhile Gemini, Lauren, Kristal And Kim were crawling along a narrow rocky passage into the claustrophobic entrance to a cave system.

Suddenly Gemini Felt a jolt of pain go shooting trough her body.

"Ok." Said Gemini crawling over a very sharp rock. "That was really painful."

"But Gemini." Said Kim. "Nothings happened."

"It's nothing to worry about." Said Gemini as she continued to crawl forward over the damp rocks. "It was Just some seriously sharp rocks."

"Oh Alright then." Said Kim as she moved onto her side in order to squeeze through a narrow outcropping."

Debris Field  
Surface

Back in the forest Sam's Body had began to corrode the branch that had impaled her.

Causing the of the section of crystalline exoskeleton to bubble violently into a liquid which was then ejected towards a rock.

The pool of blood was changing as well as the blood was beginning to form a solid membrane around Sam in a nearly flawless sphere.

Forming a protective barrier that would stop anyone who didn't share an affinity with her from moving her as well as protect her from the outside world.

Once anchored to the environment the Bioshield began to emit pulses of targeted dark energy causing damage to all lifeforms within 333 meters that didn't share the same DNA as the current humanity. Meaning that primitive humans would be heavily damaged if they came too close to the bioshield.

Debris Field  
Surface

As Gemini entered the cavern where the group of scourge were trying to set up a hive she experienced another massive jolt of pain and collapsed.

Her spines suddenly beginning to glow purple luckily she was caught by Kim.

"Gemini." Asked Kim with a serious look of concern on her face. "Seriously are you feeling ok?"

"That's so weird." Said Gemini still being held by up by Kim. "There were no rocks this time."

"Well in that case." Said Kirstal looking towards Gemini with an expression of deep thought on her face. "It can only be your affinity with Sam and Jack. But since Jack is In the future the neural feedback must be coming From Sam."

"So." Said Gemini as the Scourge that were creating the hive finally noticed that they had

entered the cave. "What does It mean?"

"Simply put it means Sam's either dead or in serious trouble. Still it seems to of been a big enough to your body to awaken the rest of your ability's." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Which means we need to move Fast. Step one Protect you whilst you get used to your new ability's. Step two Kill these scourge. Step Three Save Sam."

Suddenly the Scourge catapulted themselves forward propelled by jets of acid coming from under there carapaces.

Gemini, Lauren, Kristal And Kim Dived for cover landing heavily behind various different rocks.

Then suddenly the cave was lit up by a hail of bright blue lightening as Kim took her lightning rifle off the magnetic lock on her back and opened fire on the scourge.

"Your going down Scourge no matter year it is. " Yelled Kristal as she disengaged her shard rifle off the magnetic lock on her back and loudly pulled back the bolt of her shard rifle till it almost touched her armor in order to load the rifle first shard before ramming it back in to load the shard into the firing chamber. "Awesome is served."

Suddenly Kristal pulled the trigger and a thunderous crack measuring 175 decibels resonated throughout the cave.

The shard rifle shot a bright orange hexagonal crystal that was ten centimeters long and had two 1 centimeter tips at each end and measured three centimeters wide.

Shooting at 15,000 meters per second towards the nearest scourge lifeform lighting up the rock formations a bright orange as it shot past them.

The round impacted with considerable force not only killing the Scourge life form but also causing blood and crystal to be catapulted out of both the entry and exit wound and collide with a nearby rocky wall.

## Chapter 5

### Eden Down

Debris Field  
Surface

"Ok were good." Said Kristal securing her shard rifle onto the magnetic lock on her back. Before she began to walk briskly over to the passage that would lead them out of the cavern. "Now let's get to Sam before anything else happens to her."

"Agreed as something tells me the local wildlife may not be entirely friendly to us." Said Kim as she secured her lightning onto the magnetic lock on her back as she began to follow Kristal to the exit to the cavern. "let's move."

"Lauren I need you to locate Sam." Said Gemini over the living cables as she began to sprint after Kristal and Kim towards the passage that lead out of the cavern. "Also I need you calculate a route to her while your at it."

"Ok standby I should be able to use your affinity to pinpoint her location." Said Lauren over the living cables as Gemini, Kristal And Kim reached the passage and began to crawl through quickly through the rocky passage towards the light that was lighting up the end of the passage through cracks in between the rocky floor, walls and ceiling. "Then we will be able to go and save Sam."

"Awesome." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Let me know when you have located her."

Suddenly there was a rush of cool air into the passage that blew right past them before going deeper into the cavern.

This in turn sent leaves and small amounts of twigs and bark flying into the air.

As Gemini, Lauren, Kristal and Kim emerged from the cavern and were momentarily blinded by the bright star that now was now overhead.

"I have new information." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I have completed a detailed analysis of the nearby star. As well as this planets ecology. Based on this information I have gathered I can confirm this is the planet that our ancestors left behind almost a million years ago. Due to fundamental differences and incompatibilities between our society and theirs. Knowing that it's not much of a surprise that this planet got destroyed along with the whole of the galaxy surrounding it. By a false vacuum based weapon at some point between now and

our own time."

"Lauren I appreciate the history lesson. I really do." Said Gemini over the living cables as she pulled herself up onto her feet using a nearby rock. "But now is not really the time as I desperately need you to locate Sam. As in find Sam now do other stuff later."

"Fine." Said Lauren over the living cables sounding somewhat irritated. "No need to be passive aggressive about it."

"Sorry I didn't mean it like that. It's just I am very stressed at the moment." Said Gemini over the living cables as Kristal and Kim finally managed to get to their feet. "I like you really as you're so helpful and good at keeping track of everything."

"Thanks." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Hearing that means a lot to me."

Debris Field  
Surface

"Gemini?" Said Kristal in a questioning voice her shoulders pressed up against the nearby rocks. "Shouldn't we get over to Sam as soon as possible?"

"Agreed." Said Kim holding up her hand so as to shield her eyes from the bright light being given off by the nearby star. "Let's move."

"Gemini I have found Sam's dark energy pulse signature." Announced Lauren over the living cables. "She is located 1400 meters to our north."

"Understood." Said Gemini over the living cables whilst Gemini gestured north. "We're on the way."

"Kim it seems that Lauren and Gemini have found Sam." Said Kristal abruptly pushing herself away from the rock she was leaning against before bringing to a sprint off towards the north. Half crouched so as to stay below the dense foliage covering the forest floor. "She to the north let's move fast and stay below the foliage so as to make it harder for the scourge to track us."

Suddenly there was a massive bang as 3 large Scourge lifeforms erupted out of the ground propelled into the air using jets of acid.

"Scourge." Yelled a surprised Gemini as she dived for cover. "Cover me."

"Scourge vs Titan Core." Said Kristal as she quickly detached her shard rifle from the magnetic lock on her back and forcibly pulled back the bolt of her shard rifle. After she heard the click of the next round being pushed into the chamber she forced the bolt back in and pulled the rifle

up to her shoulder and aligned the rifle with the nearest Scourge lifeform. "Let's see who wins."

Then suddenly Kristal pulled the trigger and with an explosion of sound and small fast moving point of orange light.

The Scourge lifeform was flung backwards into a tree obliterating both the Scourge lifeform as well as the tree leaving only blood, shards of crystal and bits of smoldering bark covering the floor of the Forrest.

"Well." Said Kim as she disengaged her lightning rifle off the magnetic lock on her back and proceeded to bombard the two approaching scourge with bright blue lightning. "Let's see how they like this."

Suddenly the Scourge lifeforms dived behind a nearby rock narrowly dodging the bright blue hail of lightning that was being launched towards them.

"Line of sight acquired." Yelled Kristal as the Scourge lifeform came into view around the rock she was standing next to. At the same time as she cycled the bolt of her shard rifle and Pulled the rifle up to her shoulder. "Let's take it down."

Suddenly Kristal squeezed the trigger and there with a thunderous sound that reverberated off the nearby rocks and foliage sending a moving point of bright orange light straight towards the Scourge lifeform.

Then suddenly and with massive amounts of force the round impacted with the Scourge lifeform sending it flying backwards into a large tree.

It was impaled for all of one second before violently exploding into cloud of blood and crystal.

Which splattered all over the local foliage.

"Don't worry." Said Kristal helping Gemini up with her left hand whilst simultaneously returning her shard rifle to the magnetic lock on her back. "It's over."

"Thats good." Said Gemini as she got to her feet still slightly out of breath from diving for cover just moments before. "As something tells me that this world has more in store for us than a few Scourge."

"Well they were trying to change history." Said Kim as she flung her lightning rifle over her shoulder and it locked into place on the magnetic lock on her back. "So we cant be too careful when it come to the Scourge."

"Agreed after all there's that saying that is something to do with not underestimating your enemy which in our case would be the Scourge." Said Lauren over the living cables as Gemini,

Kim and Kristal began to once again head north. "In other news Sam's affinity is proving to be more unstable by each passing moment. So we should aim to reach her as soon as possible to ensure the best possible chance for her survival."

"The chances of Sam's survival are increasing with our proximity." Said Lauren over the living cables as Gemini ducked under a low hanging Branch. "Also I recommend that we interface with her wetware as soon as possible to prevent further damage to both her and her wetware."

"Agreed we need to reach her." Said Kristal as she ducked under the same rock as Gemini. "After all if her wetware is damaged she could be in massive danger as her entire biology could fall out of alignment or catch an illness or worse case scenario she could die."

"Don't say that." Said Gemini who was stating to feel a little on edge as she continued to pick her way over the rocks and through the dense foliage that surrounded her. "Yes something did happen to her but she could be fine for all we know."

"I sure hope Sam's ok." Said Kim looking carefully around before jumping over a small stream that was running by her feet and in doing so filling the air with the sounds of running water. "Because otherwise the civilians could be in serious trouble."

"That's a good point" Said Gemini as she elegantly Gestured towards Kim with her right hand. "Something tells me whatever got to Sam is most likely at least semi intelligent and as a result may try to investigate our biology to try to find out where we are from."

## Debris Field Surface

"We are coming up on Sam's location." Said Lauren confidently over the living cables as Gemini stepped into a taller part of the Forrest before placing a location marker on Gemini's living HUD that read 239 meters. "I have placed a location marker on Sam's position it's 239 meters to our north."

"Whoa what was that." Said Gemini as she saw purple light ahead of her that proceeded to expand into a sphere 333 meters in all directions creating a wave of dark energy and sending air rushing past them. "Still something tells me that's where Sam is."

"Yeah that it is where Sam is alright." Said Kristal as she continued to walk towards to origin of the dark energy pulse that rushed past her again moving a large amount of air past her as it went by. "But we might be too late as that these pulses that we are experiencing are the result of a defense mechanism called a Bioshield. Unfortunately it's not a good sign as it would only

be activated if Sam experienced significant trauma and was nearly dead. Still it might of saved her so let's get over to her and find out."

"Ok what are we waiting for." said Gemini in a worried tone of voice as she Lauren, Kristal and Kim began to run as fast as they could towards the origin of the dark energy pulses. "let's go."

Debris Field  
Surface

"Well the good news is we found her and we are far enough inside the dark energy pulse sphere to not detect it's effects." Said Kristal with an air of massive relief in her voice as she walked past the heavily corroded remains of a crystalline exoskeleton before circling the smooth outer shell of the Bioshield to make sure it had not been harmed in any way before crouching down next to it. "Even better the Bioshield is seems to be completely unharmed from a visual point of view."

"Err Kirstal." Said Gemini as she crossed here arms and turned to look towards kristal. "The bad news."

"The civilians are not here either." Said Kristal looking around the nearby forest floor to try and locate the missing civilians. "Which means that either they went somewhere else which under these circumstances is Rather unlikely. Or they were taken by one of the lifeforms on this planet."

"Still it's better to be safe than sorry." Said Kim as she too crouched down next to the bioshield."Gemini get Lauren to run an internal diagnosis's to make sure everything is ok with Sam."

"Right." Said Gemini over the living cables as she walked over to the Bioshield and crouched down next to it. "Lauren can you run a internal diagnosis on Sam and the bioshield."

"Gladly connecting to wetware now." Said Lauren over the living cables."Connection established running internal diagnostics please stand by."

"Lauren's working on it." Said Gemini as she sat down next to the Bioshield. "I hope Sam's ok in there."

"Internal diagnostics complete." Said Lauren over the living cables. "You will be glad to here that Sam is going to live. Although she has sustained Major damage to at least two of her spines as well as as lost a substantial amount of blood and damaged a large amount of her wetware. We are going to need to get her to Origin as soon as possible in order for her to be able to make a full recovery."

"But she will make a full recovery?" Said Gemini doing her best to sound like she was not worried and not cry. "I mean shes looked after me ever since my real parents and my sister were killed. She is basically my mother at this point and I desperately need her to survive for my emotional stability."

"Don't worry Everything going to be fine." Said Kim as she pulled a now shaking Gemini gently to her feet before giving her a warm hug. "I am here and so is Kristal and Lauren and we will not let Sam die. It will be be ok trust me."

"I'm ok." Said Gemini as she felt the warmth radiating off Kim's armor. "It's just this situation is pretty scary."

"I Know." Said Kim reassuringly "But we will pull through."

"Based on the current course of events we will be here for at least 11 hours whilst Sam heals." Said Kristal in calm and collected voice. "So I suggest we all get comfortable as it seems like we will at least be spending the night in this forest."

"Agreed." Said Kim as she and Gemini let go of each other and sat down on a nearby rock. "Besides we need to get the information on what happened from Sam before we do anything so as to have all the facts."

"I completely agree acting without all the information a very bad idea." Said Kristal in an irritated tone of voice as she looked over her shoulder towards Gemini and Kim who had both taken there helmets off and had started hugging and kissing each other in full view of Kristal. "Would you two please stop that it's really distracting."

"Look Kristal one of us needs to look after Gemini ok." Said Kim glaring towards Kristal. "Also because I am her her girlfriend I think that makes me the most qualified person here when it comes to looking after her."

"Ok ok fine." Said Kristal rapidly standing up sounding very frustrated. "I will take the first patrol around our perimeter but you two will have to do it after me in 5 hours or so. Also remember no sex ok as were on a mission."

"Fine." Said Gemini as she shot a rude look towards Kristal. "We will do it after the mission then."

## Chapter 6

### Return of Eden

Debris Field  
Surface

The night had been uneventful with no contact with the Scourge.

Kim and Gemini were still sleeping in an adorable position in each others arms a few meters away hidden under the grounds foliage.

Suddenly the Bioshield surrounding Sam began to crack open first with smaller gaps then with larger and larger cracks.

Before suddenly the Bioshield collapsed into a pool of greenish purple goo leaving Sam unconscious and without her armor or her assault chaingun.

In the middle of the pool of goo. Suddenly Sam coughed up large amount of the greenish purple goo before looking around her with here eyes darting from Gemini to Kim to Lauren to Kristal.

"Kristal." Said Sam weakly whilst lying perfectly still. "Bit of help here."

"Sam please tell me your ok ." Said Kristal running over to Sam and sitting down next to her before quickly connecting 8 living cables to her and Sam's backs so as to take the load of Sam's damaged wetware before lifting Sam's head and shoulders up onto her lap. "Do you know what happened."

"Thanks for the assist." Said Sam weakly before coughing up more greenish purple goo. "The Scourge they took me by surprise."

"Gemini, Lauren and Kim." Yelled Kristal still holding Sam close to her. Sam's ok can you help please."

"Sam." Exclaimed Gemini as she rushed over to Sam and Kristal and Crouched down next to them. "Don't worry Sam we are here now everything is going to be ok."

"Sam I don't really want to have to ask you this." Said Kim as she walked over and crouched down next to Sam. "However right now it is very important do you know what happened to the civilians Zoe and Karren."

"No sorry I must of happened after I was taken out." Said Sam weakly as she coughed up the

last of the greenish purple goo. "You need to find them and soon."

"I completely agree." Said Kristal holding Sam close to her as if to subconsciously protect her. "Gemini, Lauren and Kim I need you to find the civilians and bring them back here as fast as possible."

"Understood." Said Gemini sounding concerned. "What are our rules of engagement."

"Non lethal we can't risk changing history." Said Sam weakly. "Also Kim if anything happens to Gemini I will hold you and Lauren responsible."

"Don't worry both of us can hold our own in a fight." Said Kim in a cool and collected way. "Besides I am her girlfriend and you know I would never let her come to any harm."

"You should go." Said Kristal holding Sam close to her. "Don't worry about Sam as I will be more than a match for any Scourge that wants to try it's luck here. Besides I think we managed to kill all the Scourge that slipped through the artifact anyway."

"Right we will be back before you know it." Said Kim turning to face Gemini. "Come on let's go find Zoe and Karren."

## Debris Field Surface

After following the tracks of the vehicle uphill for an hour and a half Gemini, Lauren and Kim reached reached a railing overlooking a massive view covered in grassland and patches of forest and small rivers and lakes.

The clouds above were casting some of the ground into Shadow for minutes at a time.

Due to the long hike uphill Gemini and Kim had removed there helmets and hung them off the nearby railing.

They were breathing heavily and leaning against the railing for support and taking a short break.

"Well that was quite the incline." Said Gemini with her bright red hair getting blown around in the wind as she removed a food container and a holographic bowl out of a pocket on her armor and pressed a button on the bottom of the holographic bowl causing it to spring to life generating a small purple bowl above it. She then proceeded to pour the onion soup out of the container and into the bowl where it began to steam lightly due to the heating element that was Incorporated into the bottom of the bowl. "Time for a quick snack I think."

"Yeah agreed I am starving." Said Kim as she poured the onion soup out of the container and into the bowl that she was holding. "Do you have any spoons?"

"Yeah sure." Said Gemini reaching into her armors food pocket and taking out 2 spoons and passing one to Kim and beginning to slowly eat the onion soup with the other one. "Ok this is some pretty great soup."

"Yep it sure is." Said Kim through a mouthful of the onion soup. "So where abouts do you reckon this track leads too."

"Well said Gemini as she continued to eat onion soup. "I am hoping that we are getting close as we have been walking for quite a while."

"Kristal wants an update on our missions status." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Right tell Kristal that we are still in route but have stopped for a bite to eat and we will keep her updated on our progress throughout our mission."

"Very good encrypting message now." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Message encryption complete synchronising data transmission with local background radiation for covert transmission."

"So Gemini." Asked Kim through a through a mouthful of the onion soup. "Hows the soup."

"Pretty awesome as usual." Said Gemini still eating yet more onion soup. "I mean it's pretty standard rations really not that unique still really good though."

"Message received from Kristal decrypting now." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Kristal says understood and good luck on the mission."

"Well it's nice to know we have support." Said Gemini eating another spoonful of onion soup as her Blue-grey-green eyes carefully surveyed the horizon for any large structures that Karren and Zoe could of been taken to. "Still can't see anything that looks like a base."

"Wait a second." Said Kim as finished chewing on the onion soup in her mouth and she squinted her emerald green eyes in an attempt to get better detail on a rectangular rock formation that was being obscured by a large amount of foliage. "What is that over there. That massive grey rock in the distance behind those trees."

"Lauren." Said Gemini over the living cables as she continued to eat her onion soup. "Can you identify what Kim is referring to."

"Not from here something is interfering with my sensors." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We also don't have a good visual and without having sufficient information I would just be guessing at what it is with a low probability of guessing the correct answer."

"Ok don't worry." said Gemini as she finished the last of the onion soup in her bowl before placing both the bowl and the food container back into the compartment on her armor. "You ready to move out."

"Yep." Said Kim as she too finished off the last of her onion soup and returned the bowl and food container into it's compartment on her armor. "Ready when you are."

#### Debris Field Surface

"Awesome." Said Gemini as she reached down and scooped her helmet off the railing and placed it on her head. Where it engaged it's electromagnets causing a small hiss of air to escape through the gap as it closed. "Follow me and stay close."

"Alright." Said Kim as she scooped up her helmet off the railing and with a small hiss of air locked it into place. "let's go save Zoe and Karren before anything happens to them."

With there helmets on Gemini and Kim resumed there hike down the middle of the tracks that had been left by the vehicle of the primitive humans.

As Gemini stepped over a fallen tree she began to think about how great it would be to have Sapphire and Hydrojneiss providing support for her and Kim.

"I know what your thinking." Said Lauren over the living cables as Kim swung herself over the fallen tree. "I agree we could use there support."

"Yeah it would be good to have them here." Said Gemini over the living cables as she continued to follow the tracks in front of her. "But unfortunately something tells me we don't have the option of waiting almost a million years for backup. After all the fight is here and it's happening now."

"Wow this track just goes on and on." Said Kim as she walked beside Gemini being careful to not lose track of the direction of the path. "How much further do you reckon it is."

#### Debris Field Surface

"Hold that thought." Said Gemini as she abruptly came to a halt and began to try and pinpoint the Scourge lifeform that she could sense was nearby. "We have a single Scourge hostile nearby trying to pinpoint it's location."

"That's not good." Said Kim in a worried tone of voice as she rapidly disengaged her lightning rifle off the magnetic lock on the back of her armor and brought its weapon sights up to her eyes. "Do you know where it is."

"There." yelled Gemini as the Scourge lifeform erupted out of the ground ahead of them propelled by a jet of acid sending mud foliage and debris flying everywhere before crashing into the ground with such force that Gemini and Kim had to quickly adjust the way they were standing so they didn't fall over. "Take it down."

Then suddenly the sections of armor on the Scourge lifeform expanded then contracted sending yet more debris flying everywhere including a particularly large piece that was headed straight towards Gemini.

Instantly Kim reacted throwing herself towards Gemini.

As she flew through the air she grabbed hold of her girlfriend Gemini before they both crashed to the ground.

They landed with a loud thud behind the nearby fallen tree.

Narrowly missing a large amount of spines and acid that had been fired at them.

Then in one elegant sweeping motion Kim grabbed her lightning rifle off the floor next to her.

Kim then swung it over her shoulder and fired a torrent of bright blue lightning towards the Scourge lifeform.

Lighting up the tracks the fallen tree and the surrounding Forest in bright blue light.

But the Scourge lifeform wasn't phased by the torrent of lightning colliding with it.

As a result they continued to fire acid and spines towards the fallen tree that Kim and Gemini were taking cover behind.

"Come on don't stop with the Resistance." Said Kim through gritted teeth as she continued to unleash a torrent of bright blue lightning towards the Scourge lifeform as yet more acid and spines flew overhead. "You can't take this much damage forever even if you're far more resistant to it than a normal Scourge lifeform."

"If I may add something." Said Gemini loudly still lying on the ground looking up towards Kim and the acid and spines flying overhead. "Tactically speaking its eyes should be a weak spot. If you target them you should be able to do some damage."

"Right." Said Kim as ducked below the fallen tree narrowly missing yet another salvo of acid and spines. Then in a blur of movement she poked back up from behind the fallen tree and rapidly pointed her lightening rifle straight towards the Scourge lifeforms eyes and directed the torrent of bright blue lightning towards the Scourge lifeforms eyes. "On it."

Suddenly the Scourge lifeform exploded sending blood and fragments of crystal flying in all directions lodging themselves in nearby trees and bits of foliage.

"Now that." Said Kim as she took hold of Gemini's waist and gently helped her get back onto her feet. "Was a good tactical move by the Scourge."

"Agreed ambush the group that only has one person in it with a weapon." Said Gemini as she stabilised herself. "That way you as the attacker have the advantage."

Debris Field  
Surface

Half an hour later Gemini and Kim finally got into a position with a much clearer view of the massive grey rock that they had seen earlier.

"Thats Interesting." Said Lauren over the living cables as she analysed the visual information she was receiving on the grey rock. "There seems to be a large amount of primitive humans towards the base of the grey rock which would suggest that the grey rock is in fact the base we are looking for."

"Understood looks like we found there monolith ." Said Gemini as she continued hiking along the middle of the tracks. "See if you can intercept there communications and find out where Karren and Zoe are being held."

"Confirmed." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I will keep a lookout for communications that I can decrypt."

"Gemini." Said Kim looking towards Gemini as she vaulted over a fallen tree that was in her path. "You alright over there."

"Yep I am good." Said Gemini as she ducked under a low hanging Branch. "Lauren is trying to intercept the primitive humans communications and locate Karren and Zoe."

"She is allowed to do that right." Asked Kim as she ducked under the low hanging Branch. "I mean it sounds a bit suspect."

"Yes Lauren is allowed to do that." Said Gemini as she continued to follow the tracks. "You see she is a fragment that comes under my command as CEO of Gemini holdings. Meaning that as

long as she has my permission do it she can. That said if your really worried about morality then just remember that they were kidnapped."

"Yeah I see where your coming from." Said Kim as she stepped over a small log that was in her way. "That makes perfect sense."

## Chapter 7

# Covert assault on monolith

Monolith  
Surface

Gemini, Lauren and Kim were lying in a patch of muddy foliage at the base of the monolith.

Slowly taking in all of the buildings intricacies trying to find some kind of weak spot.

The monolith towered above them reaching 15,789 meters into the sky.

It's sides sleek and grey with very few windows or openings of any kind.

Suddenly a section of the monolith slid open 3576 meters above them and several aircraft flew out of the opening each being held up by 3 massive propellers.

"Well I think we found it." Whispered Gemini moving her arm slightly before turning towards Kim. "Where do you think they would of taken Karren and Zoe."

"Well if it was me I would take them to the most secure part of the building." Whispered Kim looking towards Gemini. "Which means this is not going to be easy."

"Yeah sounds about right I was thinking the top of the building is a likely spot." Whispered Gemini still lying low in the muddy foliage as a group of primitive humans walked past on patrol creating quite a bit of noise as they broke twigs and stepped in mud. "Ok so the plan is going to be a covert insertion as I don't think we would be able to fight them all at once. Then once we are inside we secure and rescue the civilians Karren and Zoe and make our exit. All with an emphasis on being very quiet and stealthy."

"Incoming transmission from Kristal." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Should I put her through."

"Yes." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Go for it."

"I have managed to fully stabilise Sam." Said Kristal over the living cables . "Hows things going with you? Also have you found Karren and Zoe yet."

"Yeah were good." replied Gemini over the living cables as another group of primitive humans walked past them crating a small amount of noise as they went past. "We just reached the monolith that the primitive humans are using as a base and are standing by to initiate our

covert insertion."

"Understood and both me and Sam wish you the best of luck with your mission." Said Kristal over the living cables. "I am going to drop off comms now so that they can't trace our signal I would recommend you stay off the comms unless your compromised and require our assistance."

"Thanks and don't worry. I'm an Eden." Said Gemini over the living cables. "We will contact you when were done."

Monolith  
Surface

"Gemini." Whispered Kim reaching her left hand out and affectionately taking hold of Gemini's right hand. "Your sure your Ready."

"Well I am about as ready as I am going to be." Whispered Gemini squeezing Kim's left hand in return. "let's go before my nerves get the better of me."

"Ok we just need to wait for a gap in the patrols." Whispered Kim as her head followed the troops patrolling the courtyard ahead of her. "Ok now."

Suddenly there was a gap in the patrols and Kim pulled Gemini to her feet and whilst continuing to hold her hand they proceeded to run at full speed across the courtyard weaving in between the parked vehicles, containers, crates and other military hardware.

"Woah." Whispered Kim as she suddenly saw a patrol that was about to see herself and Gemini and slammed both herself and Gemini to the ground so as to remain out of sight. "Sorry about that we can't risk being seen."

"I'm ok." Whispered Gemini sightly shaken as she stared right into Kim's beautiful emerald green eyes that were visible through the visor of her helmet. "As much as I am enjoying the time were spending together I think it might be a good idea to save the making out until after we have saved Karren and Zoe."

"Yeah." Wisped Kim as she watched the movement of the patrols whilst continuing to lie perfectly still so as to avoid attracting any attention to herself or Gemini. "Just as soon as the patrols move out of sight."

"Wait a second my spine is playing up again." Said Gemini as she felt her spine pulse with energy before releasing the energy throughout her body dropping the temperature in her blood vessels by several degrees. "My spine just pulsed then when the energy was released my blood vessels just went cold."

"Really a dark energy pulse thats awesome." Whispered Kim looking towards Gemini all of a sudden looking very excited. "It's your ability activating must be related to pressure on your spines try rapidly tensing your back muscles one at a time starting from the top and working your way down to the bottom."

"Aright then here goes nothing," Whispered Gemini as she tensed her back muscles starting from the top and working her way down to the bottom all in less than a second. "Any changes."

"I don't think so." Said Kim looking around for a direction they could go in that wouldn't cross paths with any guards. "That said I don't really know what to look for."

"In that case I will try this." Whispered Gemini as she sent a massive neural load into her spines causing dark energy to build up inside them. Suddenly she simultaneously released the dark energy and tensed her back muscles from top to bottom all in less than a second. Then all of a sudden she felt her blood heat up and her entire body flickered invisible for a split second. "Anything happen that time."

"Oh yeah." Whispered Kim staring at Gemini with a stunned expression on her face. "You can bend light Gemini that ability is very rare and very useful. Now as you only did it for a split second I would assume that you need to keep your spines tensed in order for light to continue to bend around you."

"Kim theres no patrol at the moment." Said Gemini as she slid Kim off her and stood up and looked around for the entrance to the monolith. "Time to move."

Monolith  
Surface  
Courtyard

Suddenly Kim sprung to her feet and both Kim and Gemini ran 45 meters through open ground before taking cover behind a small crate.

"We should be getting close now." Said Gemini looking around her her eyes darting from object to object as she looked around for an entrance. "Can you make out any sort of entrance."

"Not one I can see." Said Kim looking around the courtyard and the front of the building before putting a hand of the lighting rifle on the magnetic lock on her back. "We could always make an entrance."

"Something tells me that would not be very stealthy and attract way to much attention and besides somethings happening above us" Said Gemini shooting a quizzical look towards Kim before looking back towards the monolith. Suddenly another of the flying vehicles flew out of

the monolith above them and began to descend towards a landing pad that was positioned only 56 meters away from their current position. "That's our way in time to move."

All of a sudden Kim and Gemini proceeded to run towards the Landing pad.

Trying to keep as low and as fast a profile as possible.

Just seconds later they reached a crate that was only a few meters away from the landing pad and took cover behind it.

"Well that's our ride." Said Kim watching as the aircraft's landing gear made contact with the ground holding its massive body as well as its 3 huge propellers in position above the ground. "Let's get on top of it."

"Right so get on top of the aircraft as opposed to getting on top of you." Said Gemini as she and Kim scurried along the ground whilst the primitive humans were loading and unloading cargo from their aircraft before quickly scrambling up the side and on to the top of the aircraft. "Got it."

"The primitive humans have still not mentioned Karren or Zoe on their communications." Said Lauren over the living cables sounding worried as the aircraft began to shake violently as it took off and began to fly upwards towards the monolith. "Which probably means the primitive humans have realised we are not from this time. Which means we need to move as fast as we can as they are more than lightly in trouble."

"Thanks for the update Lauren." Said Gemini over her living cables as the aircraft that she and Kim were lying on top of continued to shake violently as it continued to gain altitude every passing second. "We are moving as fast as we can and when we get into the monolith we will head to their security room and see if we can find out where they have been taken from there."

"You're assuming that we can even connect our wetware to their computer systems." Said Kim looking towards Gemini as the faint and misty outline of the hanger bay began to come into view above them complete with a catwalk just below the top of the hanger bay. "Based on their primitive technology level I am not sure that we will just be able to connect our wetware to their systems."

"Don't worry." Said Gemini looking back towards Kim as the aircraft finally reached the same altitude as the hanger bay and proceeded to extend its landing gear ready for a landing. "Lauren will handle that and should be able to extract the data we need on Karren and Zoe's positions."

Monolith

Surface  
Hanger bay

"Well theres the hanger bay." Said Kim as she and Gemini began carefully sliding along to the edge of the aircraft. "let's disembark before someone sees us."

Suddenly the aircraft arrived in the hanger and as it flew in Kim and Gemini jumped upwards and grabbed hold of the catwalk above the aircraft that ran along the top of the hanger bays entrance.

Then drawing on there strength Gemini and Kim climbed up onto the side of the catwalk whilst grabbing a tight hold of the railings.

"So far so good now to find the security room. Let's try going right." Whispered Gemini as she began to move carefully and silently along the side of the railing. "We have a 50% chance it's the right way anyway."

"Ok let's go." Whispered Kim as she began to follow Gemini along the side of the catwalk keeping a firm hold of the railing as she made her way along the railing after Gemini. "If you take point I will stay close behind you."

After 2 minutes of carefully and silently moving along the railing Gemini and Kim reached a doorway that lead into into a narrow corridor.

"Well." Whispered Gemini as she swung herself over the railing and onto the catwalk before walking towards the doorway and taking cover on the right hand side of the doorway. "I think were going in the right direction."

"Ok So far so good." Said Kim as she elegantly flipped herself over the railing and onto the catwalk before running over to Gemini and taking cover on the left hand side of the door." I don't think we have been spotted yet."

"Gemini I have not picked up any word of us in any of the primitive humans communications." Said Lauren over the living cables. "There was however a small piece of very well encrypted information that was sent a few minutes ago that I am trying to decrypt at the moment."

"Right keep trying as it might be important." Said Gemini over the living cables. "However I am thinking we will be able to use the equipment in the security room to decrypt it once we find the room anyway."

"Well there is going to be a lot of rooms in this building." Said Kim peering out through the doorway on the lookout for anyone on patrol. "Seems clear so let's keep moving."

Kim and Gemini carefully rounded the door frame and entered the corridor instantly they were

met with a large brightly lit metal corridor with many doorways and windows into rooms stretching for hundreds of meters in front of them.

To there left was a single air vent cover that was 1 meter square.

"Ok this complicates things." Whispered Gemini to Kim as she pressed herself and Kim into one of the metal girders that were positioned every 5 meters out of the walls so as to hold up the ceiling. "We need to find a way to the security room without attracting any attention."

"Theres an air vent to your left on the floor." Said Lauren over the living cables. "That should provide a access route to a number of rooms on this floor assuming they are all serviced by the same air ventilation system."

"Lauren is suggesting we take the air vents to stay out of sight." Whispered Gemini into Kim's ear. "Do you reckon you can get that air vent cover open quietly."

"I will see what I can do." Whispered Kim as she gently pushed past Gemini before silently walking over to the air vent and examining the air vents hinges. "The hinges here are pretty old it shouldn't take much effort to remove it."

"Awesome an easy stealth route for a change." Whispered Gemini as she took a quick look down the corridor before stealthily walking over and crouching beside Kim. "let's get this open."

"Working on it." Whispered Kim as she looked left then right then put both hands under the air vent cover and lifted it all the way open so that it was resting on the small ledge above the air vent. Before maneuvering herself into the air vent. "Ok in we go."

"Alright I am right behind you." Whispered Gemini as she crouched even lower and maneuvered herself into the air vent. Once inside she reached her left hand out of the air vent and silently maneuvered the air vents cover back into place. "Well nobody has seen us yet so we should have a clear route to the security room."

"Well which ever one of the primitive humans designed this air vent system." Whispered Gemini as she crouched walked behind Kim. "Obviously did not bother to think of how low the ceiling is."

"Well I don't think they were planing for people to use this as a way to get around." Whispered Kim as she detached her lightening rifle from it's magnetic lock and forced it past her hips causing the sides of the air vent to get long horizontal scratches running across the side of the air vent. Then holding the lighting rifle in front of her so that it was illuminating the air vent in front of them with the lightening that was arcing along it's firing mechanism. "I mean the monolith seems to have plenty of room in it's corridors to get around in after all and the corridors have lighting and working doors."

Monolith  
Air vents

"Hey watch it." Whispered Gemini as Kim slowly moved forward accidentally elbowing Gemini in the face as she moved forward. "I am right behind you remember."

"Sorry about that." Whispered Kim. "Although I enjoy being this close to you I agree this is not really the time or place for it."

"It's ok." Whispered Gemini as she followed followed Kim further into the air vent system.  
"Let's just find the security room."

"Tactically speaking this air vent should keep us out of sight whilst we find the security room." Said Lauren over the living cables as she scanned the environment for electromagnetic activity. "Also I have been unable to decode that message and the primitive humans seem to understand how to hide there electromagnetic activity so haven't been able to locate the security Room."

After 25 minutes of crouch walking around in air vents Kim and Gemini finally managed to find a room that had an air vent that was not blocked by items piled up in front of the air vents.

"Ok this looks like the place." Whispered Kim as she peered through the air vent cover. "I can see a lot of electrical equipment and screens."

"Sounds good." Whispered Gemini trying to look around Kim to get a look out of the air vent cover. "Is there anyone in there."

"Yes theres two primitive humans." Whispered Kim pushing herself up against the air vent cover to get a better view to each side. "We are going to need to be quick and stash they body's in the air vent."

"Agreed." Whispered Gemini still crouching behind Kim. "Let's get in there."

"Ok get ready." Whispered Kim as she slowly opened the air vent with her left hand and returned the lightening rifle onto the magnetic lock on her back with her right hand. "Initiating breach."

Once the air vent was completely open Kim and Gemini stealthy maneuvered themselves into position behind the two primitive humans.

"Ok get ready." Whispered Gemini as she and Kim reached up with there elbows so that there

elbows were above the primitive humans heads. "Now."

Suddenly Gemini and Kim brought there elbows sharply down right into the two primitive humans heads and there were two thumps as there body's hit the floor.

"I require access to there computer systems." Said Lauren over the living cables. "From there I should be able to locate Karren and Zoe's whereabouts."

"Give me a second to hide the body's." Said Kim as she dragged both the primitive humans over to the air vent and stuffed them into a small alcove just behind the opening. "Sorted now let's find Karren and Zoe."

"Right Lauren let's see whats in this computer system." Said Gemini as her living cables retracted out of her back and remained dangling off Lauren's fragment. "Remember were looking for Karren and Zoe first and whatever was in that encrypted message you intercepted second."

"I understand." Said Lauren as Gemini lowered her fragment onto the nearest security console. Suddenly the living cables attached to her fragment tore open the console and burrowed there way inside. Before finally Lauren's deep red avatar with shoulder length hair appeared above her fragment. "The security algorithms used here are pretty weak it shouldn't take me long to locate the information we need."

"Good because I don't want to be here for any longer than we need to be." Said Gemini standing expectantly besides Lauren's avatar and her fragment. "Also something tells me that we won't get a great greeting if the primitive humans find us."

"Agreed." Said Kim looking hurriedly between the air vents cover and the door to the corridor outside the security room. "Let's keep this as quick as we can."

"Agreed." Said Gemini looking towards Kim before looking towards the door. "Once we have the information let's get out of here."

"Well I have good news and bad news." Said Lauren as her glowing red avatar played with her hair with her right hand. "The good news is I manged to decode the data that I intercepted whilst we were in the monolith and it it was just a supply's manifest so we don't need to worry about that. The bad news however is that Zoe and Kim seem to be located in the medical area of the monolith on the most heavily defended floor of the monolith."

Monolith  
Security room

"Well thanks anyway." Said Gemini striding over to the console that Lauren's fragment before

reaching down and carefully retracting the living cables connected to Lauren's fragment before carefully picking it up and holding it near her back. Suddenly the fragments living cables extended out towards her back and connected Gemini's living cable sockets. "We have a mission to do let's keep moving."

"I am assuming you have a plan." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Something tactical and stealthy."

"Indeed I do." Said Gemini as she nodded in the direction of the air vent so as to signal to Kim that it was there exit route before walking over towards the air vent herself. "I was planing to use my ability to curve light to avoid there patrols and infiltrate there medical area."

"Gemini." Said Kim as she hurried over and reached down and lifted the air vent cover all the way up for Gemini. "Let me get that for you."

"Thanks Kim." Gemini said affectionately as she ducked and crouched walked into the air vent closely followed by Kim who silently closed the air vent cover behind them. "Well might as well get cosy as this is going to be our route to Karren and Zoe for the moment."

"Agreed it is getting pretty hot in here." Said Kim as she followed closely behind Gemini in a crouch walk. "Might be something to do with us blocking the airflow or your looks that are doing it."

## Chapter 8

### Upwards climb

Monolith  
Air vent

"Lauren when your were in the security room." Said Gemini over the living cables as she rounded a narrow in the air vent. "Did you find a map to the monolith."

"Unfortunately not." Said Lauren over the living cables. "But I would assume that a building of this size would use it's elevator shafts to move air vertical throughout the building as space would be at a premium in a structure like this."

"Gemini do you hear that noise." whispered Kim as she followed Gemini around the air vents corner and strained to listen to the quiet rumbling that was coming from up somewhere nearby. "I think I hear the elevator shaft."

"Yeah" Whispered Gemini as she continued to crouch walk forwards towards another air vent cover in the distance. "I think I hear it too."

"Gemini based on the heat in this air vent and the vibrations from the sound we are hearing." Said Lauren over the living cables. "The air vent cover located ahead of us should lead to the elevator shaft which is carrying the warm air up the building."

"Good work Lauren." Said Gemini over the living cables as she continued to slowly crouch walk through the air vent. "So how long is the climb."

"3,500 meters." Said Lauren over the living cables. "It's not going to be a walk on New Ria thats for sure."

"So Gemini do you know how far it is that we have to go to reach Karren and Zoe?" Whispered Kim as she crouch walked behind Gemini. "As I was thinking that it might be a long climb."

"Yep it's a long one 3,500 meters straight up." Whispered Gemini as she reached the air vent and slided it across and poked her head out into the elevator shaft and against her better judgment looked down the elevator shaft which went straight down for thousands of meters. "Now thats a long way down."

"Gemini stay focused." Whispered Kim who was waiting patiently behind Gemini. "Sight seeing is not part of the plan and getting up this elevator shaft is."

"Armor is magnetised." Said Lauren over the living cables. "It's time to do this climb."

"Well here goes nothing." Whispered Gemini over to Kim before grabbing hold of the top of the air vent. "Follow me and whatever you do don't look down."

Suddenly Gemini was met with a huge rush of hot air as she pulled herself completely into the elevator shaft.

She began to climb the side of the shaft with every motion causing a metallic clang as the armor on her hands and boots magnetically engaged and disengaged from the metal wall of the elevator shaft.

"Hey wait up." Whispered Kim as she engaged her magnetic armor and quickly climbed out of the air vent and began attaching herself to the metallic wall of the elevator shaft. Once Kim was securely anchored to the wall she silently closed the air vent cover and began to climb up the metallic wall after Gemini. Making metallic clanging noises as her armor anchored and unanchored from the wall. "I have only just got out of the air vent shaft."

"I am assuming that you don't have an exit strategy." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We will need to do get out of the monolith as soon as we have rescued Karren and Zoe."

"Don't worry about it." Said Gemini over the living cables as she climbed and continually repositioned her hands and legs as she continued to scale the metallic wall. "We can handle the exit and whatever the primitive humans throw at us."

"So far so good." Whispered Kim as she adjusted her climbing speed so that she was scaling the metallic wall alongside Gemini. "It would appear that the primitive humans have not been able to detect us yet."

"Yeah I know what you mean." Whispered Gemini as she carefully climbed over reinforcing struts that were blocking her path up the metallic wall. "I just hope that they haven't found the body's we stuffed in the air vent yet."

"I know what you mean." Whispered Kim as she too climbed over the reinforcing struts before looking towards Gemini. "Something tells me that the primitive humans won't take long to find the body's and put the whole monolith on high alert. If that happens then rescuing Zoe and Karren will be come significantly harder."

Debris Field  
Surface

"I hope that Karren and Zoe are ok." Said Sam weakly looking up towards Kristal from her position in her Kristal's lap. "I feel partly responsible for what happened."

"Don't worry." Said Kristal as she looked kindly down towards Sam whilst she adjusted the living cables running between her and Sam's backs and moved Sam further onto her lap to try and keep her off the forest floor. "Gemini and Kim will be fine as they have more than enough experience between them. As for Zoe and Karren I am sure that Gemini and Kim are almost with them by now and have a good plan of how they are going to get them back to us unharmed."

Monolith  
Air vent

45 minutes later Gemini and Kim finally arrived at the floor that Lauren had found Karren and Zoe on and were catching their breath in between two reinforcing struts of the lift shaft.

"Noooooooooooo." Yelled a high pitched voice from the other side of the metallic wall that they were resting against. "Don't you dare touch her."

"Sonic profile matches that of the civilian named Zoe." Said Lauren over the living cables.  
"Recommend Melting through the wall with biodefences."

"Lauren is suggesting." Whispered Gemini as she nodded towards Kim. "Using biodefences to breach the wall"

"I agree get ready." Whispered Kim as she turned her back so that it was touching the wall then 8 spines rapidly extended out of the 8 holes normally used for living cables and made contact with the wall. After a few seconds the wall began to corrode and Kim's magenta colored blood began running slowly out of the rapidly corroding wall before dripping down the elevator shaft and disappearing in the darkness below them. "We will be through momentarily."

Suddenly the wall collapsed and Kim quickly spun around and retracted the 8 spines sticking out from her back into the holes for the living cables.

Then in one fluid movement she pulled Gemini off the ledge and into the room.

Before disengaging the magnetic lock on her lightning rifle and bringing it up to its firing position.

The room was covered in technology and had various medical equipment and tables scattered around the edges of the room.

In front of Kim and Gemini was three guards, two that were quite close to them and one that was further away standing between a bright blue sky in the window behind him and the alarm

pedestal in front of him.

"I got the guards." Whispered Gemini seeing the two guards right in front of her and Kim. as she sent a massive neural load into her spines causing dark energy to build up inside them. Suddenly she simultaneously released the dark energy and tensed her back muscles from top to bottom all in less than a second. Then all of a sudden she felt her blood heat up and her entire body disappeared from sight completely invisible. Suddenly there were two loud cracks and the two guards dropped to the floor then a second later Gemini flickered back into sight right above the unconscious guards. "Well thats that problem solved."

Suddenly Kim Looked forward and Located Zoe and Karren strapped to what looked like some kind of table at the other side of the room as well as a single heavily armored Guard that was looking straight at her and Gemini.

The guard yelled something towards Gemini and Kim as he slammed his fist down on the alarm systems activation button that was positioned on a pedestal right beside him setting off an ear splitting alarm.

"Look I have no idea what you just said but were here here to rescue our civilians and we will use force if necessarily." Yelled Gemini over the noise of the alarm as the guard readied his weapon. "Why do I get the feeling he is not getting the message."

"Because he is shooting at us." Yelled Kim over the alarm as she grabbed Gemini and knocked over a table before pulling both herself and Gemini behind it. "Ok I have had it with these guys first they kidnap our civilians then try to kill us. I think we need to take them down a few notches."

Suddenly Kim swung her lightning rifle over the top of the table and fired a hail of bright blue lightening straight towards the guard.

The guard dived into cover knocking over the table that Zoe was strapped to in the process causing her to yell out in pain.

Kim however now had her head above the cover and was directing the stream of lightening straight towards the guards weapon in an effort to knock it out of his hands.

"Tactically speaking." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Kim should target the light above the guard as it might then fall on him and knock him out."

"Good idea." Said Gemini who was still crouched behind the table next to Kim and trying to speak in a volume that was loud enough to be heard over the alarm but quiet enough to not be heard by the guard. "Target the light that might fall and knock him out."

"Right." Said Kim at a volume that only Gemini would be able to hear as she adjusted her

lightning rifle so that it was hitting the light above the guard causing it to spark and glow bright white due to the heat from the lightning. "On it."

Suddenly the light gave way and came crashing down onto of the guard knocking him out completely.

"Kim turn off the alarm." Said Gemini over the noise of the alarm as she ran over to where Karren was and began to unstrap her from the table. "Then help Zoe."

"Right on it." Said Kim as she aligned the lightning rifle with the pedestal and pulled the trigger causing another hail of bright blue lightning to fly towards the pedestal. Suddenly the pedestal exploded scattering debris across the whole room. Kim then ran over to Zoe and untied all the straps with one causing a limp Zoe to fall right into her outstretched arm. "We need to extract as the whole building will have heard that."

"I agree." Said Gemini as she picked up Karren with one arm movement. "Any ideas."

"Based on the analysis I have conducted on the buildings superstructure." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I believe the best cause of action is to make a running jump through the massive window."

"Wow that is both Crazy and brilliant." Said Gemini as she turned to face the massive window that was 25 meters away from them. "Kim it's time to fly."

"Fine we jump." Said Kim as she turned to face the window and tightened her hold on Zoe. "But don't say I didn't warn you of getting seen."

"Don't worry about it I have done it before and I can do it again." Said Gemini as she tightened her grip on Karren and began to run at full speed towards the window. "It's just like the freefall shaft that we used to extract from border world 21-211-23-32-14."

"Well here we go." Said Kim with synchronised screams from both Karren and Zoe both she and Gemini smashed through the window and began their vertical head first decent down the side of the monolith with every second that passed causing the monolith to speed past them faster and faster."

## Chapter 9

### Impact

Monolith  
Freefall

"Altitude is falling at a rate of 100 meters per second." Said Lauren over the Living cables. "I recommend locating a safe landing location that is as far away from the bottom of the monolith as possible. As well as something that will help to provide a softer landing."

"Right I will keep that in mind." Said Gemini over the living cables as she frantically scanned the Forrest. That was rapidly rushing up towards her for a viable landing location. "It is however a bit hard to think when the ground is rushing towards you this quickly."

"When you showed up to rescue us this isn't exactly what we had in mind." Yelled Karren in a panicked voice over the air that was rushing loudly past them as she clung tightly to Gemini. "I though we would take the stairs or anything other than this."

"Kim we need to try and find a landing site." Yelled Gemini as she maneuvered around a large group of antennas that were sticking out the side of the monolith. "If possible the landing sight should be out of sight of the primitive humans. But close enough to the base of the monolith for us to reach it."

Suddenly a point defense turret deployed out of the side of the monolith and aligned towards Kim, Gemini, Zoe and Kim before releasing a hail of bullets in there direction.

"Kim break formation now." Said Gemini as she swerved to the left and Kim swerved to the right of the incoming fire and continued falling down the side of the monolith. "Keep an eye out for anything we can use as a landing site."

"Terrain proximity warning." Said Lauren over the living cables. "4500 meters till impact."

"Zoe." Yelled Kim as she tightened her grip on Zoe before quickly glancings from Zoe to the ground then back again. "I hope this isn't to exciting for you."

"No I am good." Said Zoe looking downward towards the ground before suddenly seeing a small lake near the edge of the courtyard at the base of the monolith. "Theres a lake down there could we use that for our landing sight."

"Awesome thanks Zoe." Yelled Kim before banking hard to the right to avoid the incoming fire from the turret as she looked towards Gemini and Karren who were falling 25 meters away

from Kim and Zoe's position. "Gemini there's a lake just past the edge of the compound we will meet you there."

"Well spotted." Yelled Gemini as she and Karren maneuvered around the hail of bullets that were shooting towards herself and Karren from the turret. "Make sure you aggressively use your electromagnetic deceleration wetware to kill as much speed as possible as I don't plan on having to drag you out of the bottom of the lake."

"Fair enough." Yelled Kim over the noise of the wind as she and Gemini adjusted their trajectory's to send them towards the lake. "Almost there."

"Right you are." Yelled Gemini over the rushing wind. "It's time to get slightly wet. But not that kind of wet."

"Standby for contact with the surface of the lake." Said Lauren over the living cables. "32 seconds till impact."

"Time to slow our approach." Yelled Kim as she looked towards the ground that was now only 1300 meters below her. "Engage electromagnetic deceleration wetware."

Suddenly Kim and Gemini held tightly to Karren and Zoe and initiated their electromagnetic deceleration wetware and were surrounded by a cloud of purple mist which slowed them down considerably.

Then 12 seconds later Zoe and Karren held their breath before Gemini, Lauren, Kim, Zoe and Karren impacted the surface of the lake with a massive bang sending two massive plumes of water 35 meters into the air before collapsing back into the lake with a loud crash.

Within seconds Gemini and Kim surfaced holding Karren and Zoe who coughed up a small amount of water.

Gemini and Kim then began to swim towards the nearest edge of the lake.

As Zoe and Karren reached up and firmly grabbed hold of their hair and proceeded to ring the water out of their hair.

"Lauren can you contact Kristal and Sam." Said Gemini over the living cables as she climbed up the muddy banks at the edge of the lake. "Let them know that we have rescued Zoe and Karren and will meet them at the artifact for extraction."

"Updating Kristal and Sam on our mission status and advising them to head to the artifact for extraction" Said Lauren over the living cables before she placed the artifact's location on Gemini's organic HUD. "Be advised the artifact is located here which is quite some distance away from our current location."

Debris Field  
Surface

"Right I just got a message from Lauren." Said Kristal as she picked up Sam before quickly standing up and beginning to walk toward the artifact. "It seems that Gemini and Kim succeeded in rescuing Karren and Zoe and they are all proceeding to the artifact for extraction."

"Well thats one thing less to worry about." Said Sam weakly as Kristal held her closer to her body and began to run in the direction of the artifact brushing through lots of foliage as she ran. "So I assume that thats where were going."

"Yep pretty much." Said Kristal as she jumped over a fallen down tree trunk. "We should be there pretty soon as it's won't take very long to get there at the speed were going."

"Well at least this confirms my theory." Said Sam weakly looking up towards Kristal. "You know the one about the origin of humanity as well as there homeworld."

"Yeah but we need to get back to our time." Said Kristal as she jumped over a small stream before regaining her footing upon landing and continuing to run through the forest in the direction of the artifact. "We just have to hope that we managed to find and kill all the scourge in this time period. As even though these primitive humans have nothing in common with us. Without them we wouldn't be where we are today."

"Well technically we are in the past at the moment." Said Sam weakly as Kristal ran through another patch of dense foliage. "But I know what you mean."

After a hour of running Kristal finally reached the edge of the forest and ran out into the small clearing that contained the artifact. "Theres the artifact we will hold position there." Said Kristal as she continued to run towards across the grassy ground below them the artifact."and wait for Gemini, Lauren, Kim, Zoe and Karren to arrive."

Debris Field  
Surface

"Gemini were closing in on the artifacts location." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We should arrive at the clearing with the artifact in it within the next hour."

"Well thats a relief." Said Gemini over the living cables as she lifted herself and Karren over a large rock that had fallen onto the vehicle tracks. That they were walking along diverting a small clear stream that was now flowing quickly around the bottom of the Rock. "As this journey somehow feels longer on the way back than it did on the way here."

"Should be almost there now." Said Kim as she lifted herself and Zoe over the rock that was blocking there path. "The clearing should be pretty nearby at this point as we have been walking for quite a while now."

"Yeah Lauren just said that were almost there." Said Gemini as she brushed past a large piece of foliage. "It's a good thing to as we belong in space not on the ground."

"I completely agree." Said Kim as she continued to push through the foliage. "Being in space is in humanity's DNA we belong amongst the stars."

After another hour of hiking through the forest Gemini, Lauren, Kim, Zoe and Karren finally emerged from the forest and entered the small clearing and began to walk towards the artifact.

"There's Kristal and Sam." Said Kim as she looked towards the artifact as she walked beside Gemini. "Let's get over there."

"Don't worry." Said Gemini as she quickly glanced down towards Karren before looking back up in the direction that she was walking in. "we will have you back home in no time."

Debris Field  
Surface  
Artifact

"Mission accomplished." Said Gemini as she heroically walked up to the artifact alongside Kim. "Civilians rescued and no primitive civilians killed."

"Awesome work." Said Kristal as she got to her feet still holding Sam in her arms. "Have you got any idea how we get back."

"Unfortunately not." Said Gemini as she and Kim walked up to the artifact and began to look at it closely. "But I am working on it"

"Analyzing artifact for activation mechanism please stand by." Said Lauren over the living cables as the organic HUD disappeared. "Please stand still during scan for optimal results."

"Lauren is working on the activation mechanism now." Said Gemini as she stood completely still looking towards the artifact. "It shouldn't take Lauren long before she has figured it out."

"So how does this work then." Said Zoe sitting up slightly in Kim's arms and looking over Kim's arm and towards the artifact. "I mean how does it travel through time."

"Kronoposition." Said Kim matter of factly looking down towards Zoe. "The artifact exists in both all and none of the points of the timeline simultaneously then when it's activated it the possibilities collapse into the single destination point."

"Got it." Said Lauren over the living cables. "The activation mechanism is related to the Kronoposition of the artifact meaning that a shot from a lightning rifle should throw the artifact back out of Kronoposition and connect us with the position where it was last connected."

"Thanks Lauren I knew you could do it." Said Gemini over the living cables before saying out loud. "Kim the lightning rifle should throw the artifact back out of Kronoposition and connect us with the position where it was last connected."

"Understood." Said Kim as She maneuvered Zoe into her left arm before grabbing her lightning rifle off the magnetic lock on her back before brining it up to it's firing position. "Well I guess I will see you all later on then."

Suddenly Kim pulled the trigger of the lightning rifle sending a hail of bright blue lightening towards the artifact. For a split second the artifact was engulfed in bright blue lightening that was arcing across it's surface. Then with a massive bang and flash of blue light the artifact fell out of Kronoposition and activated.

Suddenly Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe Karren and Kim once again found themselves rapidly traveling down a bright blue tunnel that pulsed with blue light.

"Well here comes the future." Said Gemini out loud as she flew down the tunnel at incredible speed right at the front of the formation made up by Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe Karren and Kim. "I guess you could say the future is about to arrive on time for once."

"It is nice." Said Kim looking towards Gemini. "You know for things to actually happen on time for a change."

Act III

38-9C

## Chapter 10

### Extraction

#### Present day

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve

Suddenly the exit of the tunnel shot towards them and before they could do anything Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe Karren and Kim were catapulted through the air and slammed onto the ground a few meters away from the artifact near the caverns wall.

"Were back and not a moment too soon." Said Sam weakly as the environment around her seemed to rise as Kristal repositioned her arms so as to hold Sam more securely before getting back onto her feet. "Myself, Zoe and Karren are going to need immediate transport to Origin."

"Ok not a problem." Said Kristal looking towards Gemini and Kim that were finishing getting back onto there feet just a few meters away. "You all ok?"

"Yeah were fine." Said Gemini making sure that she had a good grip on Karren before looking over towards Kristal. "Were good over here so let's head up to the surface."

"Sounds good to me." Said Kim as she Repositioned Zoe In her arms before beginning the short walk out of the cavern. "We should probably call ahead to let them know where coming."

"Communications re-established." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Should I request that transport meets us outside."

"Yes please." Said Gemini as she carried Karren up the steep slope that lead out of the cavern. "And Remember You, Myself, Kim and Kristal need to go to the be taken to the 38-9C and Sam Karren and Zoe need to be evacuated straight to Origin as soon as possible."

"Understood I will sort it out." Said Lauren as she messaged the 38-9C before sending another message to Origin. "I have contacted the 38-9C and Origin and I am currently awaiting a response from them."

"Right Lauren has sent the pick up requests." Said Gemini as she could see the light pouring in from the the surface. Cascading past the ruins ahead of her and stopped near a large rock that was in line of sight with the caverns opening. "So we are going to have to wait here until they respond."

"Alright then." Said Kim as she and Kristal Joined Gemini in standing beside the large rock. "Hopefully it won't take them too long to respond."

"Good point." Said Karren looking towards Gemini. "I don't like to be kept waiting."

"Incoming transmission from the 38-9C." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Acting captain Jack Eden is on the comms."

"Ok cool." Said Gemini over the living cables. "put him through."

"This is acting captain Jack Eden of the 38-9C." Said Jack over the comms. "Were on station ready to assist."

"This is Gemini we sustained casualty's during our mission to extract the civilians and secure the artifact." Said Gemini over the comms. "We require transport for us and the artifact to the 38-9C and Sam, Zoe and Karren require immediate transport to Origin."

"Understood protect Sam at all costs and tell her I Love her also whatever you do don't let anything else happen to Sam or the civilian's." Said Jack over the comms. "I will reroute a heavy gunship to your position to pick you up and I will assign a Gemini Holdings team to collect the artifact. I am also sending a Trinity to take Sam, Zoe and Karren to Origin."

"Don't worry the area were in is secure and Sam, Zoe and Karren are medically stable." Said Gemini over the comms. "We will remain underground in the ruin in the Inerian wildlife preserve until you give us clearance to move to the landing zone."

"Ok I will keep you updated and don't worry to much about the artifact. As I am sending a separate recovery team of technicians in a Gemini Holdings transport ship who will handle moving it to the 38-9C." Said Jack over the comms. "Acting captain Jack Eden out."

"Right backups on the way." Said Gemini looking over towards Sam. "Also Jack asked me to say that he loves you."

"I am not dieing here." Said Sam in an annoyed tone. "I am simply not feeling my best."

Suddenly the sound of sustained gunfire came ricocheting into the cavern that Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe Karren and Kim were standing in causing Zoe and Karren to visibly flinch before seizing up in fear.

"Don't worry everything will be ok." Said Gemini in a calming voice upon seeing that Karren was in need of reassurance. "Our backup is on the way and there is nothing down here that will hurt us."

"This experience is not something anyone should have to experience especially not civilians." Said Sam weakly and on the brink of crying. "I feel so bad about what they went through."

"It's not your fault." Said Kristal looking down towards Sam. "Besides we saved them and everything is going to be fine once transport arrives."

38-9C  
Bridge

"Sarah you know what to do." Said Jack Looking to his left where Sarah was standing next to the captains chair as the ship got hit by a large blob of acid causing vibrations to be felt throughout the 38-9C. "Protect the extraction of the artifact and our ground teams."

"Understood acting captain the heavy gunship and Trinity are in route to the landing zone and should arrive in a few minutes." Said Sarah as she rapidly tapped orders into her tablet before looking back towards Jack. "Redirecting droneswarm to cover the extraction of Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe, Karren and Kim."

"Thanks Sarah." Said Jack looking towards Sarah. "I couldn't do it without you."

"No worries." Said Sarah looking towards Jack. "But I would be careful with flirting with me when Sam around."

"Yeah I know what you mean." Said Jack half laughing whilst looking back towards the front of the bridge. "She can get overprotective."

"You have to remember that there is a lot of loss in Sam's life." Said Sarah looking towards Jack. "You can't blame her for not wanting to lose you as well."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve

"Gemini I have just received word from the 38-9C." Said Lauren over the living cables. "The landing zone is secure and we are to proceed there immediately."

"The landing zone has been secured." Announced Gemini as she began to walk briskly towards the exit to the cavern walking around the fallen ruins as she went. "We have been ordered to move to the landing zone immediately."

"It's about time they showed up." Said Kristal as she followed Gemini up the steep incline that lead up through the ruins and out of the cavern. "My arms are getting tired."

"Hey Kristal." Said Sam weakly as she looked up the incline towards the bright daylight that was pouring into the cavern lighting up the ruins nearest the entrance in sunlight. "That's not fair."

"She's just joking with you." Said Kim as she walked up from behind Kristal and began to walk next to her. "Don't take what she is saying too literally."

"Don't worry." Said Sam weakly as she looked towards Kim. "I wasn't planing on taking it seriously."

"Once we reach the surface we are going to head straight to the landing zone." Said Gemini as Gemini, Sam, Lauren, Kristal, Zoe, Karren and Kim reached the surface and were bathed in sunlight. "It it's not too far from here."

"Landing zone is 782 meters away." Said Lauren as she placed a objective marker on Gemini's living HUD. "let's get there."

Suddenly there was a massive roar as 3 ships flew overhead in a tight X Delta formation the Trinity was at the front of the formation and it was flanked by a heavy gunship and a Gemini holdings transport ship.

They flew rapidly overhead in perfect formation flattening the grass below them and scattering lose foliage, dust and small rocks across the ground.

"That's our ride." Said Gemini looking up then to Kristal then to Kim as she continued to run to the landing zone. "Let's not keep them waiting."

"Trinity 1477-22 we are proceeding to the landing zone in the nearby clearing." Said the trinity pilot over the comms. "We will see you there."

"Ok we will be with you in a minute." Said Gemini over the comms as she continued to run alongside Kristal and Kim towards the landing zone. "Thanks for the lift."

"It's strangely quiet here." Said Kristal as Gemini, Kim and Kristal ran towards the landing zone. "Normally the Scourge would of tried to attack us by now."

"It's to risky for them at the moment ." Said Gemini glancing at the objective marker that now read 452 meters before looking back towards the direction she was running in. "The Scourge normally only attack when they think they have the edge whether that be firepower, numbers or surprise."

"Well not getting attacked is fine by me." Said Zoe looking around as the foliage shot past her. "I think myself and Karren have had enough excitement for now."

"Hopefully Sam's wetware can be saved." Said Kim looking towards Sam as she ran alongside Gemini. "Although based on the amount of trauma she experienced it may not be possible to save her wetware."

"Well if anyone can save Sam's wetware it's the technicians at Origin." Said Gemini as she glanced towards Kim whilst leaping over a small stream. "We need to get her there as soon as possible for the best chance of recovering her wetware."

"I completely agree with the fact that time is of the essence." Said Kristal As she leaped over the small stream. "Still I think I should accompany them to Origin so that nothing happens to them."

"Denied." Said Gemini as she brushed her way through a patch of dense foliage. "We need you here in case this battle gets any worse."

"Fine it was just a suggestion." Said Kristal as she brushed through the foliage after Gemini. "If you want me to stay with you I will."

"Good to know that you have my back." Said Gemini as they entered the clearing where the Heavy gunship ,Trinity and the Gemini Holdings transport ship had landed each ship sitting in a small crater covered in small cracks created by the there weight being transmitted down there landing gear and into the ground below and sending a massive amount of air flying outwards due to the downward thrust from there engines. "Well here we are let's get everyone where they need to be."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Inerian wildlife preserve

Suddenly there was a hiss of escaping air and the boarding ramps of the heavy gunship and Trinity lowered and came to rest on the ground.

"Were here to take you the the 38-9C. " yelled the loading officer over the downwash who was inside the heavy gunship at the top of the ramp. As the recovery team ran off the Gemini Holdings transport and disappeared into the forest. "We need to leave as soon as possible as the Scourge would of tracked our decent and are probably closing in on our position as we speak."

"Agreed were almost ready." Said Gemini walking through the knee high grass towards the Trinity. "We just have to get Karen, Zoe and Sam onto the Trinity first."

"Very well." Said the loading officer who had one hand on the handrail next to the ramps doorway and one hand on a orb rifle his eyes darting around the tree line as he looked for Scourge. "But make it quick."

Suddenly the ramp of the Trinity lowered with a hiss of air escaping through the sides before it finally bumped the ground.

Gemini instantly recognised the bright blue wavy and waist length hair and amber eyes of Ruby.

She stood at the top of the ramp hurriedly gesturing them to come over to her as quickly as possible.

"Were ready to fly to Origin." Said Ruby brushing her hair out of her mouth and behind her shoulders. "Get them onboard."

"Ruby nice to see you." Said Gemini as herself, Kim and Kristal reached the bottom of the ramp and began to walk up the ramp. "I haven't seen you in years."

"Yeah it's been a while." Said Ruby looking towards Gemini as she reached the top of the ramp. "Many things have happened in the time since we last met. But right now we have a mission to do so we will have to catch up later. Maybe over a bowl of onion soup."

"Yeah we really need to get going." Said Kim as she Carefully placed Zoe into one of the Trinity's acceleration seats. "Don't worry Zoe I have known Ruby for years she will take good care of you."

"Karren, Zoe stay safe." Said Gemini as she gently placed Karren down into one of the Trinity's acceleration seats. "Also good luck in your future endeavors."

"Gemini." Said Kristal as she disconnected the living cables from her back before connecting them to the sockets behind the acceleration seat and placing Sam into it. "We need to go."

"Good luck." Said Ruby saluting towards Gemini before turning around and pulling down the top half's of Karren, Zoe and Sam's acceleration seats and securing them into place. "I will let Lauren know once we reach orbit and get safely into torsion."

"Alright we will leave you to it." Said Gemini before looking towards Kim and then Kristal.

"Ok." Said Gemini as she Kim and Kristal turned around and sprinted down the ramp of the Trinity' and ran towards the heavy gunship. "Time to go."

Once onboard the heavy gunship Gemini, Lauren, Kim and Kristal promptly sat down in the the nearest acceleration seats and Pulled the top half of the acceleration seats down and secured

them in place.

"Ground team aboard." Yelled the loading officer as he hit the button to raise the ramp causing the ramp to make a loud noise. As the ramp raised before slamming into place with a loud clang as the electromagnetic locks engaged causing the ramp control to switch from saying unpressurised to saying pressurised. The loading officer then sat down in the acceleration seat nearest the door before pulling the top half of the acceleration seat down and securing it into place. "let's fly."

Then suddenly there was a huge amount noise as the engines went to full power and the heavy gunship lifted it's huge amount of weight into the air.

Immediately following this the landing gear made a loud whirring noise as they were retracted.

Then only 5 seconds later the heavy gunship cleared the clearing and the heavy gunships fusions engines rotated to face towards the back of the ship.

"Here we go." Said Gemini having felt the engines rotate into position through the G forces that were forcefully pressing her into the back of her acceleration seat and causing the onion soup in her stomach to shift. "Get ready for rotate."

Suddenly the heavy gunship experienced a massive burst of acceleration as the main engines throttle was set to 100%.

At the same time the pilot pitched up to a 75 degree angle as the heavy gunship passed through the region of maximum dynamic pressure. Causing Gemini, Lauren, Kim and Kristal to be pushed even harder into their seats and large 15 meter long plasma trails to form along the outside of the heavy gunship.

Due to the heat buildup from the air rushing past the heavy gunships armor.

"Gemini the Trinity has reached orbital and is initiating torsion and the recovery team have the artifact loaded aboard the Gemini Holdings transport and are in route to the 38-9C." Said Lauren over the living cables. "They will reach Origin within the hour."

"Thanks for the heads up." Said Gemini over the living cables as she looked out of the window at the ground that was fast rushing away from her being replaced instead with the massive battle that was taking place in orbit around Genricar-1477 moon 17. "38-9C here we come."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Orbit  
Heavy Gunship

"Standard orbit achieved and the Scourge in pursuit." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We are now in route to the 38-9C."

"Thanks for heads up." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Can you request droneswarm support from the 38-9C."

"Already done." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Awaiting a response from the 38-9C."

Suddenly Gemini, Lauren, Kim and Kristal were pressed into the acceleration seats again as the heavy gunship suddenly lurched to the right to avoid the hail of acid and spines that were being shot towards the heavy gunship by the group of pursuing Scourge interceptors.

Then as the 38-9C came into view through all of the Titan Core starships that were locked in heavy combat with the Scourge.

The droneswarm arrived in a hail of fire from there heavy singularity repeaters and aggressively moved to engage the Scourge interceptors.

Their heavy singularity repeaters tearing through the Scourge interceptors causing blood and fragments of crystal to be catapulted into space.

"Well were almost at the 38-9C." Said Kim looking over towards Gemini. "Not a moment to soon as it seems that the Scourge are not to pleased with there failure to change the past."

"I think your right." Said Gemini as she intensely stared out of the window opposite her. "Looks like the Titan Core fleet is doing well."

Suddenly the Gemini Holdings transport ship came up alongside the heavy gunship.

Then as the inside of the heavy gunship was bathed in a bright blue light a massive heavy ion cannon beam shot past them before continuing behind the Gemini Holdings transport ship missing both the heavy gunship and the Gemini Holdings transport ship by just 15 meters.

"That was too close." Exclaimed Kristal As she looked into her shoulder to shield herself from the bright light. "Another few meters and we would of been hit by that."

"Well for now we are still here." Said Gemini looking over to Kristal. "So let's get this artifact back to the 38-9C before the Scourge cause any more close calls."

"Well thats life for you lots of different experiences." Said Kim looking over towards Kristal. "Things get bad then things get worse then we emerge both victorious and relativity unscathed."

"Still it makes you think what life was like before the Scourge and Exodus wars." Said Gemini

looking dreamily towards Kim. "Well once the wars are all over I know who I want to spend the rest of my life with."

"Gemini your the best thing that ever happened to me." Said Kim Looking towards Gemini.  
"When people ask me what I fight for the answer has been you. Ever since I met you I knew you were the one that I want to live with forever."

"Well I am going to assume that was some kind of a proposal." Said Gemini blushing slightly and looking lovingly towards Kim. "So I accept your offer and to be honest I could sense our affinity from the moment we met."

"What Gemini is saying." Said Kristal looking towards Kim. "Is that she loves you too and she feels it was both of your destiny's to end up together."

"Thanks so much for saying yes." Exclaimed Kim looking excitedly towards Gemini whilst reaching into a slot in her armor before holding up a beautifully engraved purple holo prism with a 3d infinity carving in the middle and the inscription "Gemini and Kim forever." On the front of the holo prism. "I have something for you too it's a holo prism containing all the best moments of the time we have spent together."

"Kim your amazing." Said Gemini as Kim gently threw the holo prism into Gemini's right hand which she promptly caught and placed in a slot in her armor. "You know that right."

"I hate to break up the love that is in the air. You could say I starship it. Get it star-ship." Said Kristal giggling as the 38-9C began to fill up the whole view out of the heavy gunships windows.  
"But we have a very important mission to complete."

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain Gemini ,Kim and Kristal are in orbit and in route to the 38-9C." Said Kira looking at down at her tablet. "They should be docking with us shortly."

"Understood thanks Kira." Said Jack looking over towards the holographic planing table. Suddenly the 38-9C got hit by a massive ball of acid knocking a few of the bridge crew including Sarah and Kira onto the floor. "Thanks."

"Engineering status report." Said Jack looking over towards the engineering officer. "Please say we didn't take to much damage."

"No damage sustained and all systems are online." Said the engineering officer. "Our armor is holding against the Scourge acid and Spines that are being fired towards us."

"Well." Said Jack before turning to look towards the weapons officer. "Thats a relief."

"Strategically speaking." Said Sarah looking towards Jack. "Our weapons systems should be able to do sufficient damage to the Scourge battlecruiser to render it useless for the rest of the battle."

"Ok weapons." Said Jack. "You know what to do."

"Yes sir." Said the weapons officer rapidly tapping a series of commands into the holographic console. "Engaging the Scourge that are attacking us."

Suddenly the 38-9C brought it's weapon systems to bare on the nearby Scourge battlecruiser that was firing at acid and spines towards the 38-9C in retaliation.

Fortunately this volley of weapons fire would be the Scourge battlecruiser's last.

Genricar-1477 moon 17

Orbit

Heavy Gunship

Suddenly the heavy gunship was knocked off course by the massive explosion of blood and Crystal that was catapulted out into space from the destruction of the Scourge battlecruiser.

"Ok this is getting ridiculous." Said Kristal looking out the window as the heavy gunship maneuvered itself back on course. "Thats the second time we have almost been hit by our own teams weapon fire."

"Well as long as they don't hit us and take out lots of Scourge." Said Kim looking back over towards Kristal. "I don't really care what happens."

"Look were still here." Said Gemini as she looked first to Kim then to Kristal whilst being pushed into the acceleration seat due to the heavy gunship preforming another course adjustment. "So let's just enjoy the flight to the 38-9C."

"So how far out are we." Said Kim looking towards the loading officer. "Whats our estimated time to target."

"Were still 3 minutes out." Said the loading officer looking towards Kim as the inside of the gunship was lit up with another flash of bright blue light as another heavy ion cannon beam shot past one of the the gunships window opposite her. "Well thats provided we don't run into any Scourge in route."

"Well if we look outside we can see Scourge." Said Gemini as she watched the Titan Core fleets

engaging the Scourge ships through the windows. "So I would say that you could safely assume that we have Scourge contact."

# Chapter 11

## Under Attack

38-9C  
Bridge

"Captain Dock control has sent an update." Said Kira looking towards Jack whilst fiddling around and tapping commands into her tablet. "Dock control reports that the Gemini Holdings transport ship that is carrying the artifact is onboard the 38-9C and is secure."

"Very good." Said Jack looking over towards Kira. "Any word from Gemini on there status."

"I have no update at the present time acting captain." Said Kira looking towards Sarah for a second opinion. "Sarah have you got anything."

"Not right now." Said Sarah looking intensely at her tablet. As she frantically searched through the various displays on her tablet. Trying to find the heavy gunships location before finding something else entirely. "Acting captain we have a large group of Scourge ships that have broken away from the main fleet and are heading our way."

"Understood we will have to deal with them first." Said Jack as he looked towards the multiple red contacts that had come into view above the bridges holographic planing table. "Weapons take those ships down."

"The Scourge fleet is entering optimal range now." Said the weapons officer tapping away at the weapons console. "Engaging the Scourge ships now."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Orbit  
Heavy Gunship

"Just to keep you up to date on the situation." Said Lauren over the living cables as the the heavy gunship dropped under a Titan Core missile dreadnought. "The artifact has been secured on the 38-9C and a large group of Scourge have broken off from the main fleet and are accelerating towards the 38-9C."

"Lauren it is mission critical that you identify those ships." Said Gemini looking out of the window opposite her to try and see the incoming Scourge fleet. Something that was made much harder due to the way the gunship was now weaving between Titan Core starships that were nearby. "As if those groups contain any boarding craft then we need to notify the 38-9C."

"Understood Gemini." Said Lauren over the living cables as she ran a high speed analysis the incoming Scourge fleet. "Gemini my quick analysis shows that they are capable of launching boarding craft I am contacting the 38-9C now to give them the new information."

"Whats happening." Asked Kristal as she looked towards Gemini. "Is everything alright."

"No." Said Gemini shooting a worried glance towards Kim then Kristal. "I think that the 38-9C is about to be boarded."

"If thats true." Said Kim looking concerned and looking out of the window opposite her where a massive fight was raging outside between Scourge interceptors and the 38-9C's droneswarm. "Then we need to get there and fast."

38-9C  
Bridge

Suddenly there was multiple massive bangs on the ships hull that reverberated throughout the entire of the 38-9C.

"Acting captain we have a serious problem." Said Sarah looking worried and rapidly tapping on her tablet before rushing over to the holographic planing table and bringing up a 3d light blue wire-frame view of the 38-9C with red dots of various sizes moving in from the edges of the 38-9C. "These red signatures are fast moving Scourge signatures and our internal sensors picking them up throughout the ship."

"Sarah take us to code black, red alert, battlestations and notify all onboard combat teams that we are about to have internal contact with the Scourge." Said Jack before looking towards Kira. "What do you recommend Kira."

"If the Scourge want to take out our flagship." Said Kira as she reached behind her back and disengaged her engraved bright purple impact rifle with the inscription 'You can't stop the future so don't even try. "I am ready to take them down just give me permission to engage."

"Acting captain we just lost the 38-9C's communications wetware." Exclaimed Sarah as she looked at the 38-9C's status screen on the holographic planing table and engaged her shardstorm wetware which caused small shards of ice to form in the air between her fingers in her free hand. "The Scourge are getting much better at getting past our starships defensive systems which means we have a fight on our hands."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Orbit

## Heavy Gunship

"Gemini were on final approach to the 38-9C." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We should prepare for heavy contact once we reach the 38-9C."

"Kim, Kristal once we reach the 38-9C prepare for Scourge contact." Said Gemini looking towards Kim then over towards Kristal. "The Scourge are already ahead of us which means that they have the edge."

"Strategically speaking we need to get to the bridge before the Scourge." Said Kristal Looking seriously towards Gemini. Before looking back out the window opposite her where the 38-9C's docking bay was coming into view. "Then after that we need to secure the AI core and engineering then clear the ship of any and all Scourge lifeforms."

"Gemini this is going to be extremely dangerous." Said Kim looking towards Gemini as the heavy gunship flew through the docking bays entrance revealing a docking bay that looked like a war zone with thousands of the 38-9C's internal security teams engaging the Scourge with a wide verity of heavy weapons and vehicles. At the same time the gravity from the 38-9C pulled Kim, Gemini and Kristal downwards into their acceleration seats. "Whatever happens stay beside me ok as I don't plan on losing you anytime soon."

"I wish you the best on this mission." Said the loading officer as he stood up and and hit the button to Lower the ramp. Causing the ramps electromagnetic locks to disengage causing the ramp control to switch from saying pressurised to saying unpressurised then the ramp began to make a loud noise as it lowered toward the deck of the hanger bay of the 38-9C before slamming into the floor loud clang. "Good luck."

## 38-9C

### Hanger bay

"Right let's get to the bridge." Said Gemini as herself Kim and Kristal pushed up the top half of there acceleration seats before walking over to the top of the heavy gunships ramp. "Rules of engagement are simple if you see any Scourge take it down."

"Understood but the bridge is very far away from us and we are not going to reach it in time on foot." Said Kim looking towards Gemini as she walked down the heavy gunships ramp alongside Gemini and Kristal. "were going to need a shortcut."

"I have an idea." Said Kristal looking towards Gemini as she reached the bottom of the heavy gunships ramp and disengaged her shard rifle off the magnetic lock on her back and moved it into position in front of her. "If we can get to the nearest wetware relay node we can use that to reach the bridge in a a few minutes provided we don't run into any Scourge."

"Sounds like a plan and if we encounter any Scourge I have a plan." Said Kim looking towards Kristal then across the hanger bay as she disengaged her lightning rifle off the magnetic lock on her back and brought it up in front of her. "The Scourge are going to have to face my lightning rifle."

"Well the Scourge are on the move and so are we." Said Gemini over the living cables as she spotted a group of Scourge to her right. Jump over a docked gunship before crashing down onto a neatly stacked pile of ammo boxes sending them skidding across the hanger bay. "I need a route to the nearest wetware relay node."

"Understood initiating scan." Said Lauren over the living cables just as Kim pulled the trigger on her lightning rifle sending a hail of bright blue lightening straight towards the nearby Scourge lifeform causing it to explode covering the floor of the hanger bay with blood and fragments of crystal. "As long as the Scourge haven't disrupted the ships main systems I should be able to find the nearest wetware node reasonably quickly."

"Ok keep up the good work." Said Gemini as herself Kim and Kristal sprinted past the blood and crystal scattered across the floor of the hanger bay. "I just Hope Jack can hold position until we arrive."

"The Scourge are everywhere." Said Kristal as she continued to run across the floor of the hanger bay. "You do realise that if the 38-9C has already been infested by the Scourge then protocol dictates that we will have to destroy the 38-9C to keep our navigational data and technology away from the Scourge in order to stop them from reverse engineering any of it."

"We need to get out of this hanger bay as soon as possible." Said Gemini as she sprinted at full speed towards the hanger bays back wall. "As the Scourge could still send more boarding teams."

"Duck." Yelled Kim as she dived on top of Gemini throwing them both straight to the ground. A split second before a massive spine crashed into the ground where they were running across just moments before. "Gemini please say your ok."

"Yeah I ok a bit shaken but otherwise fine." Said Gemini as she helped Kim back onto her feet before herself and Kim started running full speed after Kristal. "You have to remember that I have fought the Scourge before."

"Yeah but now your with me." Said Kim as she ran alongside Gemini her eyes darting around the hanger bay ahead of herself and Gemini as she looked for Scourge. "Which means that if anything happens to you it will be on me who gets the blame and a furious Sam yelling at me."

"We need to stay focused on the mission." Said Kristal as she slowed down so that she was running alongside Kim and Gemini. "Gemini has Lauren made any progress."

"Lauren hows thing going." Said Gemini over the living cables as she continued to run alongside Kim and Kristal. "Have you located the wetware node yet ."

"Unfortunately not I seem to be getting some kind of interference and as a result I haven't found any wetware nodes yet." Said Lauren over the living cables. "That said with you permission I could redirect additional glucose to my fragment. Which would give me more energy and might allow me to break through this interference."

"Based on the on the current situation I would say that that is a good idea." Said Gemini over the living cables. "Just be sparing with what you use as I may need it to power my wetware later on if we run into any Scourge."

38-9C  
Bridge

"Acting captain the Scourge are right on top of our position." Announced Sarah in a dramatic fashion as she stood next to the holographic planing table and studied the information displayed on it with a look of intense concentration on her face. With a steady stream of water trickling from the ice that was forming in her free hand to the floor creating a small puddle on the floor of the bridge. Suddenly the Scourge breached the bridge through the ceiling and began to land with rapid succession of heavy thumps onto the floor of the bridge. "We have contact."

"Get down." Yelled Kira as she Sarah and Jack dropped into cover behind the holographic planing table to avoid the hail of spines that were now flying in all directions causing absolute mayhem. "Well it was only a matter of time until they found us let's take them down."

Suddenly Sarah reached over the edge of the holographic planing table with her left hand and began firing a hail of tiny crystals of ice out of her hand Towards the Scourge.

A few of the leading Scourge maneuvered themselves into cover behind some of the bridges many different pieces of equipment.

But the ones in the open were shredded into pulp causing a large puddle of blood crystal and water to appear below them.

"Good shot." Said Kira as she swung her engraved bright purple impact rifle over the edge of the holographic planing table and pulled the trigger. Suddenly there was an explosion of noise that reverberated through the nearby metal of the bridge. Then the display that one of the scourge lifeforms was taking cover behind exploded showering the floor of the bridge with sparks but not causing any damage to the Scourge lifeform behind it. "But we will be needing more like it."

"Well I think." Said Jack as he crouched behind the holographic planing table right between Kira and Sarah both of which were fully engaged in combat with the Scourge and sending as much ice and impact rifle rounds towards the Scourge as possible whilst trying not to hit any of the bridges crew. "That we might need some backup."

38-9C

Hanger bay

"So Gemini." Said Kristal as she hurdled over one of the hanger bays gunship docking clamps that was located on the ground of the hanger bay. "Whats the plan to get to the bridge."

"We enter the bloodstream of the 38-9C." Replied Gemini glancing towards Kristal as she ran around the docking clamp. "That should allow us to reach the bridge without being detected."

"I agree based on our current situation it should be the fastest available route to the bridge." Said Kim as she ran beside Gemini. "As it will allow us to get past the Scourge on the ship and get to the bridge as quickly as possible."

"This hanger bay is overrun with Scourge." Said Kristal who was running alongside Kim and Gemini as she raised her shard rifle up to the ready position. "Prepare for heavy contact Gemini you might want to get behind me and Kim."

"I am sorry but I am going to have to agree with Kristal." Said Kim as she and Kristal took the lead by speeding up so as to take position in front of Gemini. "After all myself and Sam would be devastated if anything happened to you."

"Look Kim I love you but I can look after myself." Said Gemini Looking towards Kim in a annoyed fashion as she ran across the hanger bay behind Kim and Kristal. "Now let's fight our way through the Scourge get to the wetware node as soon as possible."

"Gemini I have good news I have managed to locate the nearest wetware node." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I have also managed to establish a weak connection to the 38-9C's internal communication network."

"Don't worry we will make it work." Said Gemini over the living cables as she ran around a heavy gunship as a massive bang reverberated throughout the 38-9C and continued running across the hanger bay. "Lauren I would recommend you use what limited connection you have to try and contact Jack as we need to know the status of the bridge."

Suddenly Gemini, Kim and Kristal ran round an interceptor only to run into a massive group of Scourge.

"That's too many to count go left." Yelled Kim as herself Gemini and Kristal dived to the left and began to run at speed across the hanger bay parallel from the hanger bays interior wall. "There going to come after us and we are going to need a plan to deal with them."

"A heavy gunship we can use one." Said Gemini as she accelerated towards the heavy gunship ahead of them, "There's one right up ahead of us all we have to do is power it on and engage it's targeting computer."

"Gemini good news." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I have located the nearest wetware node it is located 27,677 meters behind the hanger bays far wall and were already aligned with it."

"Bit busy right now Lauren." Said Gemini as she Kim and Kristal charged up the heavy gunships ramp and into the cockpit. "Right power and targeting computer where are they."

"I think this control panel will activate those systems." Said Kim as she hopped into the nearest acceleration seat and began to flick random switches until suddenly she flicked a red switch and it lit up green and with a roar of electrical noise the heavy gunship powered up. "That sounds like a success Gemini your clear to engage our target computer."

"Ok give me a second." Said Gemini as she climbed into the second acceleration seat and flicked the switch to engage the targeting computer. "Targeting system online let's get to that wetware node."

"Ok here we go." Said Kim as she flicked multiple switches on the panel above her so as to power on all of the heavy gunships systems. "Kristal you might want to hold onto something."

Suddenly the cockpit door slammed shut and locked into place with electromagnets and the heavy gunship jumped into the air.

"Right the targeting computer should deal with the Scourge." Said Gemini as she watched the targeting computer as it began firing the heavy gunships lightning cannons just as the heavy gunship accelerated. Sending arc after arc of bright blue lightning hurtling towards the Scourge. "Just get us to the wetware node as fast as possible."

The lightning slammed into the Scourge with such force that they were blown off backwards as they exploded leaving a trail of blood and crystal across the hanger bay floor.

"Ok the wetware node is 72 degrees to our right." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Distance is 15,327 meters to the back wall."

"Kim Lauren is tracking the wetware node." Announced Gemini whilst she engaged more Scourge with the gunships lightning cannons. "It is located 72 degrees to our right and the back wall is 15,327 meters away from us."

"Were inbound to the wetware node." Said Kim as she swung the heavy gunship around with the joystick so as to face towards the wetware node before pushing the throttle forward sending them flying towards the hanger bays wall. "Once we get to the hanger bay wall we are going to have run all the way to the wetware node if we are going to be able to reach the bridge in time."

"Strategically speaking the Scourge have probably already reached the bridge." Said Kristal as she tightly held onto the ceiling mounted passenger handle with her right hand. "Which means that we are going to have to fight our way onto the bridge and thats not going to be easy."

"Since when is combating the Scourge easy." Said Kim as the heavy gunship pulled up steeply and flew over a landed orb frigate before diving back down to just above the floor so as to minimise the chances of getting hit by incoming Scourge weapons fire. "That said they not going to be able to stop us as my flying skills are going to allow us to out maneuver them."

Suddenly there was a massive explosion that came from the hanger bays entrance as a Scourge capital ships fired acid and spines at the 38-9C.

Seeing the airborne debris flying across the hanger bay Kim slammed the joystick to the right and pulled back as a massive hull plate from the orb frigate that they had past just moments ago before tore it's way through the bottom of the heavy gunship.

Before resuming the previous heading that would take them to the wetware node.

"That didn't sound good." Said Kim as she looked towards the ship status panel that showed the landing gear was destroyed. "Our landing gear are completely destroyed so our landing is not going to be a smooth one."

"I can see the wetware node up ahead." Said Kristal as she looked towards a diagonal breach in the armor at the back of the hanger bay that had been melted away by Scourge acid. "We should just about fit through the gap if we go sideways through it."

"Ok Gemini, Kristal hold on to something." Said Kim as she rammed the joystick to the right sending the right side of the heavy gunship lurching downwards at a 45 degree angle. "Almost through hang on." After 32 tense seconds of scraping through the gap the Heavy gunship suddenly collided with the wetware node and slammed to a stop in a tangle of metal, wires, armor and weapons systems.

38-9C

Wetware node 11-17-22-167b

The heavy gunship was upside down and was illuminated by a stream of dark red blood flowing

out of the now damaged wetware node and arcing with electricity as it flowed across the floor of the heavy gunship.

"Kristal, Gemini you ok." Said Kim as she pushed the remains of the top half of the acceleration seat off herself and crashed to the floor in a shower of sparks and debris. "Don't worry I am good."

"You Could of parked us upright Kim." Complained Gemini as she pushed the remains of the top half of her acceleration seat off her and grabbed it as it swung open before semi-elegantly swinging down and dropping to the floor. "Wait a second wheres Kristal."

"Don't worry I am here." Said Kristal as she pushed a pile of debris off of her and stood up. "Now which ways the wetware node."

"Kim sort of crashed into it." Said Gemini gesturing out of the remains of the heavy gunships window where small amounts of blood were flowing out of the wetware node and into the heavy gunship creating arks of lightning and a small stream of blood long the floor. "She wrecked the gunship too."

"Look who crashed the heavy gunship into what doesn't matter right now." Said Kim looking to towards the damaged wetware node. "What matters right now is getting to the bridge."

"Ok this is going to get weird so I will guide you all." Said Lauren over the living cables. "If you enter the wetware node it will take you up to the bridge from there we should be able to locate Jack, Kira and Sarah."

"Right then who wants to go first." Said Gemini looking past the blood coming out of the wetware node into the hole it had made into the ships bloodstream. "I mean I would but something tells me that someone who has a gun should take the lead."

"Probably a good idea." Said Kristal as she sprinted towards the wetware node and dived headfirst into the damaged area. "See you on the bridge."

"Gemini you go next." Said Kim giving Gemini a gentle push towards the wetware node. "I will be right behind you."

And with that Gemini took a running jump and dive into the wetware node.

Instantly Gemini was propelled toward the bridge at tremendous speed surrounded on all sides by the sides of the starships bloodstream that was sending oxygen and glucose as well as many other substances to where they were needed.

That meant that Gemini was unable to see where she was being taken.

"We are on course and I am refilling your glucose and water bladders." Announced Lauren over the living cables. "The bridge is still quite far from here though so our journey might take us a few minutes."

"Very good keep me updated." Said Gemini over the living cables as she began to accelerate and the blood around her began to travel even faster. "Also make sure that you take us to the bridge in the shortest time possible I don't want anything else to go wrong."

"Well we are on the right path." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I will continue to monitor our position in the wetware network and keep us on the quickest route to the bridge."

## Chapter 12

### Spine

#### 38-9C Bridge

"Acting captain Gemini, Lauren, Kristal and Kim have entered the 38-9C's bloodstream and will be arriving momentarily." Said Sarah as she crouched behind the holographic planing table and used her wetware to project an icy shield over the top of the holographic planing table so as to shield herself Jack and Kira from the hail of acid and spines that were being fired at them from the scourge at the other side of the room with her right hand whilst firing icy shards out of her left hand. "I should have enough glucose to maintain this shield until Gemini, Lauren, Kristal and Kim arrive ."

"As long as we stay here we should be ok." Said Kira as she crouched behind the holographic planing table and reloaded her engraved purple impact rifle. "Thats assuming that I don't run out of ammo."

"Something tells me that Gemini, Lauren, Kristal and Kim are not going to be keeping us waiting much longer. I hope that Gemini is ok." Said Jack as he crouched behind the holographic planing table and quickly glanced towards Sarah. "If anything happens to Gemini Sam is going to flip out."

Suddenly there was a massive explosion of blood from beneath the Bridges floor and Gemini, Lauren, Kristal and Kim were flung out of the wetware node and shot across the electrified blood covered floor creating a spectacular shower of sparks shooting out of the blood in all directions. With Kim firing beams of lightening out of her lightning rifle that arced across the room.

Sliding close behind was Kristal who was unleashing multiple bursts of fire towards the Scourge from her assault chain gun.

Then suddenly Gemini, Lauren, Kristal and Kim rammed at high speed into a holographic control panel sending blood flying everywhere and leaving a trail of blood across the floor.

"Hello we heard you could use some help." Yelled Gemini toward Jack as she pulled herself up the side of the holographic panel slipping slightly on the blood that on the floor. "Whats the plan."

"Well you could start by cleaning all the blood of the bridges floor as it's a safety hazard." Yelled Jack towards Gemini from behind the holographic planing table. "Only joking the plan is to get off this ship but we need to disable the ship first."

"Tactically speaking de-orbiting the 38-9C would be the best option based on the current circumstances and proximity to the rest of the Titan Core fleet." Said Lauren over the living cables. As Gemini noticed a Scourge lifeform had her in it's sights and dived backwards into cover missing a scourge spine by less than a centimeter. "Warning Scourge swarm formation is likely at this location due to it's strategic value."

"Agreed we destroy the 38-9C by de-orbiting it." Said Gemini over the living cables as she crouched behind the holographic control panel. "Wheres the nearest access point."

"The Helms console." Said Lauren after conducting a quick search of the bridge systems that were still online and undamaged. "It is located 57 meters to your right."

"Kim we need to get to the helm console that is located 57 meters to our right." Said Gemini as she looked towards Kim who was blind firing her lightning rifle around the side of the holographic control panel. "Kristal your going to cover our approach."

"Sure no problem." Said Kristal as she clung tightly onto her assault chain gun. "Ready when you are."

"Good luck." Yelled Jack from where he was taking cover behind the holographic planing table. "Remember once you have put the 38-9C on a collision course with Genricar-1477 moon 17 you need to destroy the helms console so that the Scourge can't alter it's course once we have left the bridge."

"Thanks for the heads up." Gemini Yelled back towards Jack before pushing herself up the holographic panel and sprinting half crouched and with Kim alongside her towards the helm console whilst acid and spines shot overhead. "Right it's de-orbit time for the 38-9C let's hope the Scourge don't have a fear of heights."

Suddenly a Scourge lifeform climbed up on top of a nearby holographic panel and opened fire.

"Gemini hit the deck." Yelled Kim as she dived behind the holographic panel next to her as a hail of acid and spines impacted the holographic panel that she was in front of just moments ago. "We have incoming."

Upon Hearing Kim Gemini dived forwards but was impaled by a spine in the stomach that sent her half flying, half sliding across the bridge's slippery blood covered floor.

Before slamming her into the stand of a holographic panel pinning her to it and breaking her primary and Tertiary spines in the process and causing her light green blood to flow out onto the floor of the bridge.

"Don't worry Gemini." Yelled Kim as she disengaged and ejected the capacitor from her

lightning rifle causing the capacitor to emit a shower of bright blue sparks. Then suddenly Kim slammed a new capacitor into the lightning rifle. She then readied and fired her lightning rifle towards the Scourge lifeform sending bright blue lightning arcing across the room and causing the Scourge lifeform to explode sending blood and shards of Crystal flying across the bridge. "I am coming. But not that kind."

"Kim I have you covered save Gemini." Yelled Sarah as she used nerve impulses to redirect the stream of icy shards to cover Kim and Gemini. "I can still cover you in route to the helm console."

"Kira we are going to need a exit strategy." Said Jack still taking cover from the relentless hail of spines and acid that was flying overhead. "I was thinking maintenance access corridor Any ideas."

"It's very risky as the Scourge are probably using the maintenance access corridors which run throughout the ship to move around." Said Kira as she blind fired her impact rifle around the holographic planing table at a nearby Scourge lifeforms. "That said I don't think were going to have much of a choice so I guess thats our exit plan."

"It's ok I am here now." Said Kim half crying as she finally reached Gemini and in her panicked state carefully reached behind Gemini's back and pulled her off the spine causing her heart to stop due to the sudden drop in blood pressure and covering Gemini and Kim's armor in a splash of light green blood. "Gemini hold on I can fix this."

"Kim if you want to help me you need to listen very carefully my hearts failed but I still have yours." Said Gemini weakly as blood and tears of pain clouded her eyes and Kim pulled her up against her body and began to crawl under the acid and spines flying over there heads. "There will be emergency living cables somewhere on the bridge we need to get to them and link up our bloodstreams before it's too late."

"It's ok you already have mine." Said Kim who was now also half crying as she attached her lightning rifle onto the magnetic lock on her back and maneuvered herself into a position alongside Gemini with her hands on Gemini's back and her body pressed up against Gemini's so as to stop her from bleeding to death and shield her from more acid or spines that may come her way before slowly pushing them both along the floor under the weapons fire raging above them leaving light green blood smeared across the floor. "Just stay with me as although Origin is in range I don't plan on either of us visiting them today."

Suddenly a Scourge lifeform rushed around Gemini and Kim and shot into the air propelled by a jet of acid.

Then as the Scourge lifeform passed over Kim she launched 8 spines out of her back propelled by the pressure of her blood capacitors.

The spines connected with the Scourge lifeform underbelly and drove themselves deep into it's central organs killing it instantly and causing it to crash down on top of of an nearby holographic control console.

"I hope that doesn't happen again." Said Kim as she slid herself and Gemini across the floor of the bridge sticking close to the holographic control consoles so as to remain in cover and leaving a trail of light green blood behind them. "As that was a single shot kind of deal."

"Gemini my wetware is unable to support your biology for long." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Still I should be able to keep you alive for Long enough for Kim to locate the emergency living cables."

"Right almost there." Said Kim as she noticed the emergency living cables locker 5 meters ahead of her and continued to slide herself and Gemini towards it. "Your going to be ok."

"Thanks for everything." Said Gemini as Kim pushed her the last few meters towards the locker before opening it and inserting one end of the 8 living cables into her back. Before reaching behind Gemini and carefully detaching Lauren's fragment from her back and connecting the other ends of the 8 living cables to Gemini's back causing a massive amount of pain to shoot through her body as her wetware tried to compensate for all of Gemini's damaged wetware as well as taking over the functions of her heart. "Right let's get out of here."

"Agreed." Said Kim slightly shaken. "Let's keep this quick."

"Kim once we set up the 38-9C to crash into Genricar-1477 moon 17 get us out of here." Said Gemini weakly as she continued to bleed out of the wound created by the spines impact. Then Kim maneuvered Gemini into her arms and placed Lauren's fragment in her lap before turning around and running towards the Helm console leaving a trail of light brown blood on the floor behind her. "The scourge are not going to wait for us to be ready."

Suddenly a Scourge lifeform burst out of the floor right in front of Kim, Gemini and Lauren before being hit by a hail of icy shards that came from Sarah's direction.

Causing the Scourge lifeform to switch it's attention to Sarah allowing Kim to run past it whilst it was distracted.

Then after what felt like an eternity Kim reached the helm console and repositioned Gemini in her arms so as to free up her right hand.

"Ok de-orbit time." Said Kim as she rapidly tapped a string of commands into the holographic display located at the front of the helm console. After a tense few seconds and three safety override screens the words "De-orbit burn initiated" appeared floating in midair in front of the holographic control panel. Kim then shot the helm console with her lightning rifle causing it to explode in a shower of sparks. Before turning around and sprinting full tilt towards the

holographic planing table. Holding Gemini close to her with both hands light brown blood still dripping onto the floor. "Right collision course set let's get back to Jack and the others."

"I don't want to die." Said Gemini weakly as she looked up towards Kim as Kim raced across the bridge with spines and acid raining down on them from all directions. "Promise me you will get me off this ship."

"Gemini." Said Kim as she ran alongside the bridges holographic consoles so as to shield herself Gemini and Lauren from the incoming fire towards the holographic planing table. Suddenly there was a massive bang as the 38-9C was hit by a massive spine fired from a Scourge starship and Kim was thrown sideways into the line of holographic consoles. Sending her shoulder slamming into one of the holographic consoles sending sparks and bits of metal and holographic projection crystal falling to the floor. Fortunately Kim was able to quickly regain her balance and reach the holographic planing table. "I promise that I will never leave your side."

"Good to see you." Said Jack as Kim, Lauren and Gemini approached the holographic planing table. "On to the next objective."

"Thanks for waiting." Said Kim as she crouched down behind the holographic planing table and glanced towards Jack. "Ready to leave."

"Just taking in the sights you know admiring the view things like that." Said Jack as spines and acid continued to impact Sarah's icy shield. "Only joking were going to use the maintenance access corridors to get off the bridge follow me."

Suddenly Jack made the follow me hand gesture and began running half crouched across the floor of the bridge towards the entrance to the maintenance access corridor closely followed close behind by Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Kristal.

"As long as we keep moving we will shouldn't run into as many Scourge." Said Kira as she sprinted across the floor of the bridge. Firing her engraved purple impact rifle towards any Scourge that got too close. Whilst trying not to slip on the light brown blood that was still flowing out of Gemini wound. "Just stay together and keep running towards the entrance to the maintenance access corridor."

Suddenly Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Kristal reached the maintenance access corridor and Kristal inputted the access code into the holographic panel beside the door causing it to open and waited for everyone apart from her to charge through into the maintenance access corridor before running through herself and shooting the holographic panel on the other side causing the door to slam closed behind her.

38-9C Bridge maintenance access corridor

"Hows Gemini Kim." Asked Jack as he ran ahead of everyone else along the maintenance access corridor. "Is she going to make it."

"If the blood is able to clot then yes." Said Kim as she ran along the maintenance access corridor right behind Jack leaving behind a trail of light brown blood. "The problem is that Gemini still has frostburn and if here blood level drops to much then that might come back in a really dangerous form as it could get enough room to crystallize in her bloodstream and block her blood flow."

"Kim have yourself and Gemini ever considered changing your bloods color." Said Kristal as she ran up alongside Kim down the narrow corridor that made up the maintenance access corridor and picked up Lauren and held her up against her back so as allow Lauren to connect to her using her own living cables. "As I was thinking that it might mix to a nicer color than light brown."

"Look Kristal it's personal choice." said Kim as she ran behind Jack and quickly glanced over her shoulder towards Kristal leaving a trail of light brown blood behind her. "Besides we both picked our favorite color at the time as I went for magenta and Gemini went for light green and anyway we have no reason to change it."

"Lauren we need a route out of here and to the nearest hanger bay." Said Kristal over the living cables as She Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren and Kira ran around a tight right hand corner in the maintenance access corridor. "I need you to dig up the ships layout and find us the fastest possible way off this ship feel free to be as creative as you want."

"892,781,422 battle-plans simulated. One viable. Kristal I have an idea but your not going to like it." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Based on the available data from the 38-9C's layout I believe that the best course of action is to overload the bridges primary coolant subsystem and cause an explosion that should flood the maintenance access corridor with high pressure wetware coolant fluid."

"Wait you want to flood this corridor with freezing cold water." Said Kristal over the living cable as she half ran half ducked under a coolant pipe that ran across the roof of the maintenance access corridor before hurriedly regaining her balance. "That doesn't sound like a good idea but I don't see much of a choice in the matter so I am going to say go for it."

"Ok here goes nothing." Said Lauren over the living cables as she communicated with the 38-9C's wetware and overloaded the bridges coolant subsystem causing the pipes on the ceiling of the maintenance access corridor to groan with mechanical stress. "Get ready to go really fast don't worry about the direction I am going to direct the flow to the hanger bay."

Suddenly there was a massive bang and the pipes on the ceiling burst open sending a torrent of very cold and high pressure water shooting down the maintenance access corridor.

Instantly Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Kristal were thrown off their feet and catapulted down the maintenance access corridor at incredibly high speed surrounded in many small air bubbles caused by the water's sudden appearance and Gemini's blood was causing the water around her to turn a light brown.

Then after 5 minutes of being propelled down the maintenance access corridor at high speed Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Kristal found themselves inside a flooded bulkhead room that had a series of massive and heavily reinforced doors that were designed to maintain the maintenance access corridors air pressure in the event of damage to the 38-9C.

Suddenly a group of five Scourge shot out of a tunnel to the left of Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Kristal and opened fire with a hail of acid and spines.

"Scourge on our left." Yelled Jack over their private comms channel as he, Sarah and Kristal stuck out their left arms and the resulting drag from the water forced them left so that they were now speeding towards the Scourge lifeforms. "Sarah, Kristal follow me."

Then with a thump Kristal collided with one of the Scourge lifeforms and grabbed onto the fleshy material on its underside before reaching behind her waist and pulling out her jet black combat knife with a purple blade made from solid acrcrthum and aggressively rammed it into the Scourge lifeform's underside killing the Scourge lifeform and spraying blood and shards of crystal into the water around her before pushing herself back into the water's current.

Seconds later Jack collided with another Scourge lifeform and upon seeing a sparking power relay on the floor.

Jack used his momentum to push the Scourge lifeform to the ground impaling it on the sparking power relay causing the Scourge lifeform to be cooked from the inside out.

Causing bits of charred crystal and seared blood to seep into the water rushing past as Jack launched himself back into the current of water rushing through the room.

Suddenly Sarah impacted another Scourge lifeform and after she had grabbed hold of the Scourge lifeform's back with her knees she instantly used her wetware to fire icy crystals into the Scourge's exoskeleton sending bits of blood and broken icy crystals floating off into the water.

Then all of a sudden the Scourge lifeform tried to launch spines towards Sarah but she reacted first creating a icy shield inside the Scourge lifeform's spine glands causing the Scourge lifeform to kill itself sending its lifeless body shooting backwards propelled by a cloud of ice, crystal and blood.

Suddenly the remaining two Scourge lifeforms shot jets of acid out of their exoskeleton and

maneuvered themselves through the water into a firing position in front of Gemini, Kim and Lauren.

"Don't worry Gemini." Said Kim over the private comms channel as she reached around Gemini and behind her back and disengaged her lightening rifle from the magnetic lock on her back before bringing it into the ready position in front of her. "I can clear us a path."

Suddenly Kim pulled the trigger sending a shockwave of superheated and electrified water exploding out of her lightning rifle in all directions.

Two Scourge lifeforms ahead of them instantly exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal as the electricity from the lightning rifle hit them before arcing violently towards the wall of the maintenance access corridor.

"Well that went well." Said Kim over the private comms Channel before returning her lightning rifle to the magnetic lock on her back. "Let's hope we don't encounter any more Scourge in this maintenance access corridor as I find that open wounds and underwater combat don't tend to mix well."

"Were approaching the exit point." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We are going to be emerging into one of the observation corridors near the hanger bay so watch your weapons fire we don't want to cause atmospheric breach."

"I don't think that the weapons we have with us have the capability to cause a hull breach." Said Kristal over the living cables as she was pushed forward a considerable speed. "I Think bigger weapons would be needed to do that sort of damage."

Suddenly the exit door was rushing towards Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Kristal as they were propelled down the maintenance access tunnel and seconds later they collided with the door.

Suddenly the door exploded outwards into the observation corridor sending a torrent of water rushing in all directions out through the broken door frame.

# Act IV

# Legends

## Chapter 13

# Observation Corridor

38-9C

Observation corridor

Suddenly Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal were slammed into a group of crates being stored near the windows of the observation corridor that were overlooking Genricar-1477 moon 17 and battle that was raging outside.

Suddenly Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal were pressed against the crates from the massive water pressure.

"Well I think it's safe to say that we are definitely feeling the pressure to get off this ship in one piece." Said Kim as she used her free hand to push the crate off herself so that it wouldn't crush Gemini. "Gemini how are you feeling."

"Much better thanks now I have stopped bleeding." Said Gemini weakly fighting the waters current to look up towards Kim and at the same time she felt the blood finally clotting and at last stemming the blood flow. "The damage caused by the spine must of been pretty bad if it took that long to clot. Anyway now we need to re-pressurise our bloodstream so I can be back to full strength."

"Well were in luck." Said Kim as she pried the lid of the crate that she was getting pushed onto and discovered that it was a portable blood storage crate and quickly disconnected the living cable that was moving blood from Gemini's bloodstream to hers before connecting it to the blood storage container. "We should be back to full strength in just a few moments."

"Yeah I can feel all my strength coming back as we speak. Said Gemini as she felt the new blood rushing into her bloodstream and within seconds she had most of her strength back. "Once were topped up on blood we need to get to the hanger bay."

"Agreed but it's along walk." Said Jack who was clinging onto a nearby crate alongside Sarah. "we should move in that direction as soon as possible."

"So were going to swim then." Said Kira looking towards Jack whilst clinging onto the crate in front of her as it bobbed up and down in the water even though it was still secured to the floor with a large net. "Sounds tiring."

"Ok we are back in action." Said Kim as she disconnected the living cable from the portable blood storage crate and reached around to Gemini's back and reconnected the living cable to Gemini before the water pressure finally stopped and herself Gemini, Jack, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal suddenly fell to the floor before helping each other back onto their feet. "It also Looks like were not going to have to swim after all."

"Right everyone let's move." Said Jack using his most commanding voice as he watched a series of frigates go flying past the observation corridor causing the light inside the corridor to flash purple for an instant before he began running down the still damp floor of the corridor closely followed by Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira ,Sarah, and Kristal. "We have still got some distance to cover but I know the way so stay close and follow me."

"Ok." Said Sarah as she reached up and grabbed her hair and proceeded to ring the water out of her hair. "Sure."

"Warning the 38-9C is on a collision course and will impact the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 shortly." Said Lauren over the living cables. "I recommend that we reach minimum safe distance as soon as possible."

"I think thats a given Lauren." Said Kristal over the living cables as she continued to sprint down the observation corridor. "How far is the hanger bay from our current position."

"Not far." Replied Lauren over the living cables as the 38-9C was hit by a series of heavy acid and spine salvos from a nearby Scourge destroyer causing Jack, Gemini, Kim, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal to lose there balance for a second. "We should be able to get to the hanger bay before the ship collides with the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17."

"Kim can you put me down." Said Gemini as her body lurched upwards as Kim vaulted over a crate and continued running down the corridor. "I think I can take it from here."

"It would be irresponsible of me to let you run along this corridor with that wound." Said Kim as she continued to run at full speed down the corridor alongside Kristal. "As your girlfriend I think I have some say in the matter when it comes to your health and besides your not yet back to 100 percent I am not sure how I know I just do."

"I am tracking multiple Scourge lifeforms on the deck below us get ready for contact." Said Lauren over the living cables as Kristal reached behind her back and detached her assault chain gun from the magnetic lock on her back. "Wait the Scourge are moving upwards stand by for breach."

Suddenly the floor of the observation corridor a few meters behind Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal exploded upwards.

As several hundred Scourge lifeforms used high pressure acid fired out of there backs to launch themselves into the corridor and engage in a pursuit of Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal.

"Kristal I hope you have a plan to take out those Scourge." Yelled Jack as he dived under a hail of spines that missed him by mere centimeters before getting back up and continuing to run down the corridor. "As there right behind us."

"Lauren there all yours." Said Kristal over the living cables as she continued to run down the corridor being chased by the swarm of Scourge that were following Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal. "Use whatever is available to take out the Scourge that are chasing us."

"Sure I can do that." Said Lauren over the living cables as she used her wetware to interface remotely with the observation corridors main power conduit. "You should all hold on to something."

"Everyone grab hold of the side rail in front of the windows." Yelled Kristal as she Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Sarah dived towards the side rail that was situated just below the windows and grabbed hold. "Ok Lauren we are clear do it."

"Ok detonating power conduit." Said Lauren over the living cables as she overloaded the power conduit on the opposite wall. "Remember to Hold on."

Suddenly there was a massive explosion from inside hundred meters of the power coupling and purple fusion energy shot into the room flying at high speed across the floor of the observation corridor before blasting through a large chunk of the windows on the other side.

The resulting explosive decompression catapulted the Scourge swarm along with anything that wasn't attached to the floor out of the window with massive force and speed.

Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal were momentarily floating in the air weightless holding onto the side rail for dear life before the bulkheads slammed into place shattering the fractured pieces of the windows as they were forced into the area where the window was just moments ago from there resting position along the top edge of the window frame.

"Scourge lifeforms neutralised." Said Lauren over the living cables with a distinctive aura of success in her voice as Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal climbed back onto there feet. "let's get to the hanger bay it shouldn't be far from here."

27-4A  
Bridge

"Captain on Deck." Said Sam who was repeatably tossing an acrcprthum stick into the air then catching it in her right hand as Ruby walked out of her apartment her bright blue wavy waist length hair bouncing along behind her. Whilst her amber eyes were bouncing from holographic display to holographic display. All whilst eating onion soup out of a bowl she was holding in her right hand and sat down in the captain's chair. "Stand by to exit torsion in 15 seconds."

"Thanks for the update." Said Ruby as she blew sharply upwards to get rid of a strand of bright blue hair that had fallen into her onion soup. "Now just give me a second to finish breakfast."

"You do realise we have a job to do right." Said Sam looking crossly at Ruby and crossing her arms wincing slightly due to her arm touching her newly healed wounds. "We need to rescue Gemini and the others from the 38-9C before it collides with Genricar-1477 moon 17."

"Don't worry we will." Said Ruby through another mouthful of onion soup. "We should be in position momentarily."

Suddenly everything on the 27-4A's bridge that was not anchored to the ship was flung forward with a massively loud bang.

Gradually Genricar-1477 moon 17 came into view through the massive amount of cloud of fine light grey mist.

"Standard orbit achieved." Said the helms officer as he tapped a string of commands into the holographic panel in front of him. "We should attempt to contact Jack now that they are in range of our local transmitters."

"Agreed we open a comms channel." Said Ruby as she tapped a series of commands into the armrest of her captains chair before pressing the transmit button. "This is Captain Ruby of the 27-4A to Jack Eden we are on station and ready to assist."

"This is Jack Eden we are currently proceeding to the nearest hanger bay." Said Jack over the comms his voice crackling slightly though the holographic panel. "Lauren says it's hanger bay 27-81B we will meet for extraction there."

"Message received and understood." Said Ruby as she nodded towards Sam then the bridges gravimetric acceleration tube. "I am sending Sam to pick you up."

"Ruby whatever happens in this battle remember not to panic ok." Said Sam as she reattached her lose acrcprthum stick to the magnetic locks on her waist before stepping into the gravimetric acceleration tube. "The Scourge are dangerous but not invincible we have a good

chance of not losing too much."

Suddenly Sam was hit by a massive burst of acceleration as she was catapulted towards the hanger bay at incredibly high speed causing a small amount of pain to build up inside her abdomen.

27-4A

Hanger bay 27-81B

Suddenly the gravimetric acceleration tube deposited Sam feet first onto the floor of the hanger bay.

"Hey Sam it's been a while. Your heavy gunship is ready for launch." Said Eliezaia who was Sam's personal loading officer and ex-girlfriend who's job it was to making sure that Sam's personal heavy gunship was always ready to launch as she saluted towards Sam before turning around and walking off towards the heavy gunship. "I have had it retrofitted with four quad singularity repeaters. Also the long range singularity missile launchers have been removed in favor of a pair of ION Cannons."

"Thanks for the quick turnaround." Said Sam as she somewhat painfully walked alongside the loading officer towards the heavy gunship that was located 50 meters ahead of them. "Still now that we are no longer dating I won't be staying here long and besides I am on a mission."

"Right be advised that the heavy gunships maneuverability has been drastically reduced by the modifications." Said the Elizaia as she continued to walk towards the heavy gunship her blue hair and eyes catching the lights that were covering the hanger bays floor whilst she pulled a tablet out of her jet black coat pocket and held it out in front of her so that Sam could see the screen. "I have already prepared your flight plan and loaded it onto this tablet good luck."

"Thanks for everything Eliezaia." Said Sam as they reached the heavy gunship and walked up the boarding ramp and into the cockpit. "Well I guess it's time to save the day once again."

"Well you are a living legend Sam." Said Eliezaia as she fitted the tablet into the slot next to the heavy gunships flight computer it's screen turning green to indicate a active link. "Saving the day is what you do. Remember that large portions of humanity wouldn't be here without your past efforts to save everyone."

"Well thanks for the inspiring speech." Said Sam as she painfully climbed into the pilots acceleration seat before pulling down the top half of the acceleration seat and grabbing hold of the joystick and throttle as 8 living cables extended out of the acceleration seat and connected to her back. "Well I am ready for takeoff."

"Very good Sam." Said Elizaia as she walked out of the gunships cockpit and out of the heavy

gunship. "Best of luck."

Suddenly Sam tapped a series of commands into the holographic panel in front of her and there was a loud bang as the heavy gunships ramp was brought up and locked into place.

Then Sam pressed another icon on the holographic panel that caused the propellers to start spinning and in doing with that the heavy gunship leapt into the air whilst it's landing gear retracted.

Then suddenly Sam pushed the throttle all the way forward and the heavy gunship shot out of the hanger at incredible speed before banking hard to the right and accelerating towards the 38-9C.

38-9C

Hanger bay 27-81B

Suddenly Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal ran out of the observation corridor and into the hanger bay.

"Finally we made it." Said Gemini as she looked around at the battle that was raging in the hanger bay ahead of her as she ran towards a clearing in the wrecks. "We need to find a defensible location."

"That's going to be something that's easier said than done." Said Jack as he ran along whilst looking ahead of him towards the hanger bay door across the burning wrecks of un-launched ships ranging from interceptors to support destroyers. "These ships have all been destroyed and since they're still on fire the Scourge are probably still nearby."

"Don't worry I think I see an area that is reasonably clear up ahead." Said Sarah as she ran alongside Jack being careful to not get too close to the burning wrecks. "We should be able to hold position in a defensive posture there until Sam arrives."

"Still if we get ambushed by the Scourge we may need more assistance than Sam will be able to provide." Said Gemini looking towards Sarah as she ran alongside Sarah and Kim. "We may have to call in Sam's mum Sophia Becki Eden if it gets too dangerous for us."

"I am going to take the initiative and contact Sophia Becki Eden." Said Lauren to Kristal over the living cables. "Make sure that she is ready to assist us in case it becomes required."

"Thanks a lot Lauren." Said Kristal as herself and Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira and Sarah arrived in an area of hanger bay that had less wrecked ships on the floor around them. "Right this area should be big enough for Sam to land and pick us up."

"Proximity warning Scourge inbound." Said Lauren over the living cables. "Contact in 15 seconds."

"Lauren has detected Scourge nearby." Said Kristal as she slid into cover before reaching behind her back and taking her shard rifle off the magnetic lock on her back. She then loudly pulled back the bolt of her shard rifle till it almost touched her armor in order to load the rifle's first shard. before ramming it back in to load the shard into the firing chamber. "Get into cover and prepare to defend this position from the Scourge."

Suddenly there was a massive bang as the Scourge erupted out of the ground propelled into the air using jets of acid.

Seconds later they slammed into the deck of the hanger bay sending sparks and fragments of metal flying into the air.

"Everyone open fire." Yelled Jack as Sarah grabbed Jack by the waist before throwing both herself and Jack into cover causing a loud bang as they impacted with a large section of a destroyed heavy gunship. "We have to defend this position until Sam arrives."

"If there is a time to be awesome the time is now." Said Kristal as she swung her shard rifle over the top of the cover before sliding her finger onto the trigger. "We need to hold the line until Sam arrives."

Suddenly Kristal pulled the trigger and a thunderous crack measuring 175 decibels resonated throughout the hanger bay.

The shard rifle shot a bright orange hexagonal crystal that was ten centimeters long and had two 1 centimeter tips at each end and measured three centimeters wide shooting at 15,000 meters per second.

Towards the nearest scourge life form lighting up the wrecks that were scattered across the hanger bay a bright orange as it shot past them.

The round impacted with considerable force causing not only killing the Scourge life form but also causing blood and crystal to be catapulted out of the both the entry and exit wound and get flung across the floor of the hanger bay.

"Gemini stay down I am going to engage the the Scourge." Said Kim as she took her lightning rifle off of the magnetic lock on her back before swinging it over the cover and pulling the trigger. "Scourge targets acquired engaging."

Suddenly there was a crack of thunder that rolled across the hanger bay as Kim pulled the trigger on her lightning rifle sending a bolt of bright blue lightning flying across the hanger bay arcing from Scourge to Scourge causing each of them to explode into blood and crystal that

quickly fell to the floor of the hanger bay.

Suddenly there was a series of massive bangs that reverberated across the hanger bay as 17 more groups of Scourge breached the floor of the hanger bay propelled into the air by jets of acid before crashing into the hanger bay floor creating a shower of sparks on contact with the hanger bay floor.

"Jack were getting overrun by Scourge." Yelled Gemini across to the piece of cover that Jack was taking cover behind. "I need you to give me combat clearance so I can assist with some actual firepower."

"Based on the circumstances I would say thats a good idea." Yelled Jack as his cover continued to get pounded by the torrent of incoming acid and spines. "As an acting captain in Titan Core I declare that Gemini Eden's Titan Core operative status is permanently restored to it's former status."

"Thanks for the help Jack." Said Gemini as she glanced first to Jack before looking over towards Kim. "Kim what do you have in the way of weapons that I could use."

"I don't have anything else on me." Said Kim as she noticed a shock cannon that was wedged into the cover they were behind. "But you may be able to use the shock cannon that is wedged into this piece of heavy gunship."

"Ah awesome that will work nicely." Said Gemini as she placed her legs onto the cover and grabbed hold of the front of the shock cannon and pulled sharply causing the shock cannon to explode out of the wreck in a shower of Sparks. "let's shake things up for the Scourge."

Suddenly Gemini slammed the shock cannon into the floor before pulling the trigger sending a massive shockwave through the floor of the hanger bay catapulting every Scourge lifeform it came into contact back 37 meters impaling several on wrecks of other ships killing them instantly and covering the wrecks in blood and fragments of crystal.

"Well here goes nothing." Said Sarah as she swung her right arm over the heavy gunship wreckage and fired several bursts of ice crystals towards the Scourge. "Based on the amount of Scourge I can see ahead of us we are not going to be able to hold this position for long."

"Thats ok as don't have to move from this location." Said Kristal as she pulled the trigger of her shard rifle again sending a crystal slamming into a Scourge lifeform that was charging towards her causing it to drop to the ground leaving a pool of blood and crystal below it. Then suddenly Kristal looked up and saw thousands of Scourge lifeforms had entered the hanger bay using the chaos that was quickly filling the hanger bay to slip in undetected. "Thats a lot of Scourge we got serious contact and were not going to be able to fight them all."

"We must hold the line." Yelled Gemini as she pulled the trigger on the shock cannon again

throwing 150 Scourge backwards causing them to land on top of other Scourge that were charging towards them causing them to have to slow down in order to get untangled from each others limbs. "Where is Sam when you need her."

# Chapter 14

## Phoenix

38-9C

Hanger bay 27-81B

Suddenly the nearby area of the hanger bay was filled with rotor blade and vertical lift engine noise.

Seconds later a heavy gunship arrived overhead and began firing heavy ION Canons towards the Scourge burning them into the hanger bays deck due to the very high temperature radiating off the heavy ION Cannons beams.

"This is Samantha Charles Eden." Said Sam as she tapped a series of commands into the overhead panel to open a comms channel. "I am on station and ready to assist."

"Welcome to the breach." Yelled Jack between the bursts of weapon fire over the heavy gunships comms system his voice crackling slightly due to the electromagnetic distortion from the heavy ION Cannons. "We are getting overrun you need to pick us up as soon as possible also I love you."

"Good to here your voice Jack and yes I love you too but we've got to stay focused." Said Sam over the heavy gunships comms systems as she struggled to keep the heavy gunship dodging all of the Scourge acid and spines that were flying her way and hammering into the side of the heavy gunship something that sounded like one of the red lightning storms at lake Cynthia. "This gunships is getting wrecked by all of the incoming fire I am going to have to land using some hardware assisted breaking so stand well back."

Then all of a sudden there was massive bang as the heavy gunship that Sam was piloting crashed into the hanger deck and burst into flames.

"Sam get out." Yelled Gemini in a panicked voice as she looked on towards the heavy gunship and the flames pouring out of it. "I still need you."

Suddenly there was a massive bang as the cockpit canopy was torn off by a purple singularity that had appeared out of thin air before disappearing just as quickly as it had appeared sending the canopy crashing to the ground.

Then through the smoke a female figure could be seen walking out of the cockpit.

"Gemini everything is going to be ok." Said Sam as she emerged from the wreckage with only a

few burn marks on her armor and holding both her acrpcthumb sticks in a combat ready position in her hands. "I am here and I can help you hold the line until reinforcements arrive."

Suddenly Sam sprinted into battle running towards Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal whilst holding both her acrpcthumb sticks by her side and effortlessly slashing into the Scourge lifeforms as she ran past causing them to collapse in small pools of blood and crystal.

"Speaking of reinforcements time to make the call." Said Gemini as she fired off another shot from the shock cannon flinging more Scourge into the air and causing them to create small pools of blood and Crystals where they landed. before opening a comms link directly to Sophia Becki Eden. "Hi Hi it's me Gemini we have got ourselves a bit stuck and are pinned down by Scourge in hanger bay 27-81B onboard the 38-9C near Genricar-1477 moon 17 I am sending you the relevant data data now please hurry."

Location classified  
KDI Abyssseiiiy

"Capitan we have received a distress call from Gemini." Said the comms officer as she looked towards Sophia Becki Eden who was sitting in the captains chair eating a bowl of onion soup. "Gemini, Jack and Sam are under attack in hanger bay 27-81B onboard the 38-9C near Genricar-1477 moon 17 we have the coordinates they are 17532.24512.96943.82129.15315."

"Right helm set heading 277,035,045 and standby for torsion I am going to head there at top speed remember to arrive at close range to make pickup and extraction as fast as possible." Said Sophia Becki Eden as she pushed herself out of the captains chair her long blond hair and pink-purple eyes catching on the red alert lighting that had just appeared on the bridge and began walking towards the bridges gravimetric acceleration tube. "I am going to the airlock but your going to have to meet me there."

Once Sophia Becki Eden reached the gravimetric acceleration tube she attached 8 glucose capacitors to the living cable ports on her back before stepping into the gravimetric acceleration tube.

Sophia was then hit by a massive burst of acceleration and the space around her body began and her spines began to glow bright purple.

Then before Sophia Becki Eden had time to think about anything else she passed through a series of airlock doors that quickly opened then closed as she flew through them.

Then suddenly she was flung out of her launch tube into deep space she then pulsed the wetware on the left hand side of her body causing herself to bank hard to the left and align with Genricar-1477 moon 17 before entering torsion with a massive bang and a bright gray flash of light leaving just a cloud of fine grey mist and 2 spent glucose capacitors floating alone

in the location she was at just milliseconds ago.

Then with another flash of bright grey light the KDI Abyssseiiiy finished aligning and entered torsion with a massive bang leaving behind a large cloud of grey mist.

38-9C

Hanger bay 27-81B

"This is Sapphire Ethereal of the Titan Core December." Said Sapphire over fleetcom1. "Myself and Hydrojneiss just arrived and are going to do what we can to keep the Scourge away from the 38-9C."

"Thanks for the heads up." Replied Gemini over fleetcom1 as she fired another shock cannon shot towards the Scourge throwing them backwards once again before they got impaled on the starship wreckage that covered the hanger bay floor covering it in blood and fragments of Crystal. "Good hunting and try to keep the Scourge on the ship so that we can take out as many as we can when the 38-9C collides with the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17."

"I am detecting Scourge throughout the ship now." Said Lauren over the living cables. "We need to be careful as they may start destroying the 38-9C's subsystems."

"Thanks for the update Lauren." Said Kristal over the living cables as she fired her shard rifle towards a Scourge lifeform that was running towards her causing it to trip over it's own legs before slamming into the ground dead creating a small puddle of blood and Crystal where it landed. "I will be careful."

"So far so good." Said Jack as he quickly glanced over the wreckage of the heavy gunship before diving back down as a Scourge spine shot overhead missing him by just 2 centimeters. "Were not dead yet."

"Don't worry we will survive." Said Sam as she slammed both acrpctrthum sticks into the Scourge lifeform that was trying to flank her on her right hand side and used the leverage to catapult herself into a diagonal back flip through the air leaving behind a trail of blood and crystal before she slammed into the ground with a loud thump. Doing a 3 point superhero landing with her right foot and knee on one side and her left foot on the ground on the other side. All whilst placing her right hand on the ground and holding her left hand high in the air. Causing a separate 1 meter wide and 30 centimeter meter deep hole in the deck behind the wreckage of the heavy gunship. "This should be interesting."

"Less talking more shooting." Yelled Kira who was crouched down beside Sam firing her engraved bright purple impact rifle with the inscription "You can't stop the future so don't even try." Towards the Scourge causing them to explode into a cloud of blood and crystal which quickly fell to the hanger bays floor. "Whatever we do we can't panic any more than we are

now."

"Agreed that would be wise." yelled Jack as he moved right next to Sam and she threw her arms around him and together they shared a brief moment of sanctuary before a massive bang reverberated throughout the whole ship causing them to break apart once again. "Whatever that bang was it can't be good."

38-9C

Hanger bay 27-81B

Suddenly the hanger bays lights began to flicker and were soon replaced by red emergency lighting.

Then all of a sudden Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, Sam and Kristal began to float into the air along with all of the wreckage that had covered the floor of the hanger bay and wasn't secured to it.

"Woah so much for gravity." Said a very surprised Gemini as she began to float into the air.

"The Scourge must of found and destroyed the 38-9C's dark fusion cores thus dropping power to the ships artificial gravity systems."

"Don't worry I am fully trained in advanced hand to hand combat as well as advanced firearm usage and zero-G combat." Said Kira as she steadied herself in midair before firing a few well aimed impact rifle shots. Causing the Scourge to explode into a cloud of blood and Crystal that hung in midair due to the loss of gravity. "We have been trained for this very situation well the lack of gravity part anyway."

"Well played by the Scourge." yelled Sam as she pushed off a floating piece of heavy gunship wreckage and swiped her acrcprthum sticks at the nearby Scourge missing but causing them to lurch backwards via a quick jet of acid. "Now we just need to hold on till Sophia arrives."

"Are you sure she will be able to take on all of these Scourge." yelled Sarah as she swung 360 degrees around a floating singularity missile before flinging herself towards the Scourge firing a stream of icy shards ahead of her towards the Scourge. "I can hold them but not forever."

"We don't need forever." Yelled Gemini as she struggled to get a steady shot for the shock cannon whilst floating in midair. "We just need to hold them for a few more minutes."

"Kira you doing ok." Yelled Jack looking around frantically for Kira before spotting her 3 meters above him clinging onto a piece off a 5 meter section of armor that had been torn lose from a

nearby frigate when the gravity was taken out. "I don't see much shooting."

"I am reloading at the moment it's quite a bit harder without gravity." Yelled Kira as she looked down towards Jack whilst at the same time trying to reload her engraved bright purple impact rifle with the inscription 'You can't stop the future so don't even try. Before bringing it into a firing position that would allow her to hit the Scourge lifeform ahead of her. "Alright I got it engaging."

Suddenly Kira pulled the trigger on her impact rifle causing herself to be knocked backwards by the recoil at the same time as the Scourge lifeform in front of her instantly exploded into a cloud of blood and crystal that proceeded to float in mid air due to the lack of gravity.

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
Sophia Becki Eden

Suddenly there was a huge bang and Sophia was surrounded in a cloud of fine light grey mist which she elegantly glided through. Suddenly the next 2 spent glucose capacitors were ejected from the ports on her back and Sophia arrived in the battle that was raging in the space above Genricar-1477 moon 17.

"This is Sophia Becki Eden call sign Eris 1 Actual I am proceeding to your position and will be with you monumentality." Said Sophia Becki Eden over a private channel that went straight to Gemini as she swerved right to avoid a massive spine fired towards her from a Scourge carrier the space around her body glowing a bright purple from all of the energy surging through it and powering her through space. "The KDI Abyssseiiiy should be here any moment now to provide droneswarm support."

Suddenly Sophia banked hard to the right and faced towards the Scourge carrier that had attacked her just moments ago and pointed her left hand towards it tracking the target.

Suddenly her hand fired a massive beam of highly unstable bright purple beam that crackled with raw energy towards the Scourge carrier.

Near instantaneously the beam connected with the surface of the Scourge carrier causing it to explode into 7 pieces as well as a cloud of blood and crystal.

Sophia then proceeded to fly through the wreckage. Sending the debris bouncing off her. The purple glowing energy around her colliding with other pieces of wreckage, crystal and blood causing them to float off into space in every direction.

Suddenly the KDI Abyssseiiiy arrived in a spectacular exploding out of a Scourge battlecruiser in an explosion of blood, crystal and bright grey mist. Followed by thousands of drones shooting out of it's sides erupting out of the mist like a water geyser leaving behind huge turbulent trails

of light grey mist behind them.

Then suddenly the Scourge fleet was engaged by thousands of loud 5 second bursts from the droneswarm's heavy singularity repeaters which proceeded to tear through the more lightly armored Scourge starships.

Escorted by the droneswarm Sophia boosted herself at full speed out of the chunks of Scourge battlecruiser that were free floating in space. Towards hanger bay 27-81B that was situated on the 38-9C straight ahead of her and rapidly falling towards the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17.

Sophia dived left then right then up then over the top of the 27-4A staying low to it's hull so as to gain the maximum benefit from it's heavy point defense capabilities that were throwing massive amounts of heavy singularity rounds into the space around the ship completely obliterating any Scourge ship that got too close.

After clearing the 27-4A Sophia re-aligned herself with hanger bay 27-81B and flew straight towards it shrugging off the acid and spines that were fired at her from the nearby Scourge capital ships.

Suddenly Sophia felt a gust of wind through her hair as she shot into the hanger bay before decelerating with such force that she emitted a sonic boom and sent an airborne shockwave rushing through the hanger bays atmosphere flinging the Scourge backwards and impaling them on the airborne wreckage causing a small amount of blood and crystal to float out of them into the air around them.

Then suddenly she came to a stop floating right in the middle of Jack, Gemini, Kim, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, Sam and Kristal.

"Now I that was an entrance if I do say so my self." Said Sophia as the Scourge lifeforms in hanger bay 27-81B were left stunned and trying to figure out what just happened. "Also whilst I was in route I contacted a few of my fiends in Titan Core and the Aurora and they are sending in ships to back us up. That said it seems that the 38-9C is on a collision course with with Genricar-1477 moon 17 which means we should be getting out of here."

"We are still going to have to clear out the rest of the Scourge in the hanger bay and find something thats still flyable." Yelled Gemini as she fired 3 more shots of the shock cannon towards the Scourge lifeforms that swarming into the hanger bay to replace the Scourge that had been killed by Sophia's grand entrance. "We are going to need to be fast too as the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 can't be far away now."

"Yeah it's getting really close now." Yelled Kim to Gemini and Kristal as she looked out of the hanger bays entrance and saw the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 swinging into view before floating above her cover slightly and shooting several shots of her singularity rifle right towards

the Scourge swarm that continued to barrel towards them. "We need to get off this ship as fast as possible."

"Ok found it there is a semi intact cargo transport ship 1500 meters ahead of us and it's flight computer says that it should still be flyable." Said Lauren over the living cables to Kristal. "Also it should have more than enough engine power to get us to minimum safe distance before the 38-9C crashes into the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17."

Genricar-1477 moon 17  
December bridge

"Hydrojneiss how are we doing." Said Sapphire from her position in the captains chair her long silver hair running down the back of her neck and nicely complementing her bright blue eyes. "I hope we are thinning out the Scourge fleet and have there full attention."

"Yes captain but the 38-9C's orbit is decaying rapidly and is on course to collide with Genricar-1477 moon 17." Said Hydrojneiss as his AI avatar stood in the corner of the bridges holographic planing table his avatar took the form of a man that had short hair and stormy eyes and was throwing a ball of dark blue water that pulsed with every word that he spoke between his hands. "Also the Scourge fleet is continuing to engage us from our starboard side should I realign the heavy ION Cannons to point towards and engage those ships."

"Yes and find out the status of the Titan core and Aurora fleets." Said Sapphire. "As they said they would be here 2 minutes ago."

"Understood right away Capitan." Said Hydrojneiss as his AI avatar grabbed the ball of dark blue water in both hands and expanded it out into thousands of holographic displays and control panels that he interacted and reacted to at lighting speed. Whilst at the same time casting watery dark blue light like pattens to be projected across the holographic planing table and around the nearby areas of the bridge. "Heavy ION Cannons aligned initiating assault on Scourge starships."

Suddenly the December fired thousands of beams of bright blue energy towards the Scourge fleet rapidly melting through several layers of the ships armor.

Before connecting with the ships reactors causing them to detonate into a cloud of blood and crystal and leaving large sections of the broken Scourge ships floating around and knocking into other debris.

The nearby Scourge ships responded by firing a more acid and spines towards the December pushing it's armor repair systems to there limits.

"Capitan the Scourge are focusing there fire on the December I am responding." Said

Hydrojneiss as his avatar shot a concerned look towards Sapphire. "Firing anti spine and acid countermeasures, rerouting power to armor repair systems and Heavy ION Cannons. Permission to disable gravity to free up more power for other systems."

"Do it and keep firing at the Scourge." Yelled Sapphire as the December got hit by a massive spine that breached several of the outer decks of the December flinging Sapphire out of the captains chair and onto the floor of the bridge. Sapphire quickly floated back up and brushed her long silver hair out of her bright blue eyes before retuning to her captains chair. "Hydrojneiss status report I need to know what just hit us."

"Capitan I have successfully disabled our gravity but decks 572 through 7621 have been breached on our starboard side I am rerouting the damaged wetware to their backups now." Said Hydrojneiss as his AI avatar floating in the air and rapidly tapping commands into several holographic panels one after another moving each out of his way as he went along. "Ok I have I have managed to move the processes that were running on the wetware to there backups but we are going to need more firepower in order to be able to defeat or force the Scourge to retreat."

"I get what your saying Hydrojneiss I really do." Said Sapphire who was holding on tightly to the captains chair's armrests whilst at the same time bracing her feet against the footrest so she would not go flying if the December got hit again. "But I think we should just keep shooting them as much as possible."

"Agreed we need to keep the Scourge off the 38-9C until they can extract." Said Hydrojneiss as his AI avatar looked intently at the holographic displays around his avatar before turning to face Sapphire. "The Scourge have just entered singularity missile range engaging."

Suddenly thousands of singularity missiles shot out of the sides of the December and swerved towards the scourge fleet before igniting there engines creating thousands of bright purple points of light. Before shooting forward in a massive burst of acceleration leaving thousands of thin purple engine trails behind them.

"Singularity missiles launched." Said Hydrojneiss as his avatar gestured towards the Scourge fleet that was being displayed on the bridges main holographic planing table. "Impact in 5 seconds."

Suddenly the singularity missiles impacted the Scourge carriers. For a split second nothing happened then suddenly the Scourge ships imploded leaving behind nothing but shards of blood and crystal floating in space.

"I am detecting multiple signatures in torsion to our location." Said Hydrojneiss as his avatar waved at the holographic planing table and the display suddenly zoomed outwards to show the ripples in space-time that were being given off by incoming unknown objects. "Contacts arriving now."

Suddenly there were multiple bangs as the Titan Core and Aurora fleets came out of torsion leaving a trail of bright grey mist behind them and instantly engaged the nearby Scourge starships forcing them into a retreat.

"Sapphire the Scourge are reacting to the arrival of the Titan Core and Aurora fleets." Said Hydrojneiss his avatar glancing towards Sapphire. "It looks like they are about to retreat."

"Fantastic good work Hydrojneiss." Said Sapphire still holding onto the captains chair. "Don't let the Scourge retreat destroy there ships before they can exit the battle."

"This is Amethyst of the 221th fleet the ships under my command are on station and engaging multiple Scourge targets at standoff range." Said Amethyst over fleetcom1. "We will take anything frigate size and smaller Titan Core your taking capital class and above."

"This is Nova of the 678th Titan Core high fleet." Said Nova over fleetcom1. "We are engaging the capital and above classes of ships as requested be advised that we will be using heavy weapons so stay well back."

Suddenly the orbit of Genricar-1477 moon 17 was filled with weapons fire as the Titan Core and Aurora fleets launched hundreds of thousands of Heavy ION Cannons and singularity missiles towards the Scourge starships causing them to break formation from there retreat and reform it an attack posture pointing directly towards the Titan Core and Aurora fleets that were continuing to fire everything they had towards the Scourge.

The Scourge fleet then launched a flurry of acid and spines towards the Titan Core and Aurora fleets.

The human and Scourge weaponry crossed paths midway across the middle point of the two formations of ships before they each impacted the ships on the other side with massive force dealing heavy damage to both sides.

## Chapter 15

### Three Generations of EDEN

38-9C  
Hanger bay 27-81B

Suddenly there was a huge explosion as the atmosphere of Genricar-1477 moon 17 began to rush in through the hanger bays entrance.

"Warning structural integrity compromised." Said Lauren over the living cables to Kristal. "We need to Get of this ship now before it get torn apart due to the forces of atmospheric entry."

"I agree with you completely." Said Kristal as she held onto a piece of floating debris with one hand and fired her singularly rifle towards the Scourge swarm that was rapidly approaching her position. "So how do you propose we get to the semi intact cargo transport ship then."

"Easy Gemini can go invisible." Said Lauren over the living cables as Kristal dodged a blob of Scourge acid that shot right past her right shoulder. "Then once invisible she can stealthily move over to the semi intact cargo transport ship and then fly it to us and pick us up."

"Sounds like a plan Gemini if you go invisible you should be able to go past the Scourge undetected and reach the semi intact cargo transport ship and come pick us up." Yelled Kristal towards Gemini. "Then we can get out of here."

"Alright Sounds like a solid plan." Said Gemini as she simultaneously released the dark energy and tensed her back muscles from top to bottom all in less than a second. Then all of a sudden she felt her blood heat up and her and Kim's entire body's disappeared from sight completely. "Were on it."

"In the mean time let's hold this position." Yelled Sophia as she stabilised herself in zero gravity and unleashed her full ability's on the Scourge in the hanger bay and began to summon singularities inside nearby Scourge lifeforms causing them to explode into clouds of blood and crystal. "We need to buy enough time for Gemini to get to the semi intact cargo ship."

"Thats going to be easier said than done." Said Sam as her pain finally went away and she began imploding Scourge with her singularities whilst that the same time shooting at them with her assault chain gun with the inscription "finite patience infinite firepower". "The Scourge just keep on coming."

"Whoa that Scourge lifeform is massive." Yelled Sarah as a super rare Scourge assault lifeform 50 times the size of the average Scourge lifeform exploded out of the ground being propelled

on a jet of acid and began to fire spines and acid towards Sarah. Sarah quickly pushed herself off the section of debris that she was taking cover behind and launched herself towards another piece of debris before firing a stream of icy shards straight towards the huge Scourge lifeform. "Were going to need to all shoot at this one together 3.....2.....1.....NOW!"

Suddenly two massive singularities came into existence inside the Scourge lifeform and at the same time it was getting pelted with ice, impact rifle and shard rifle rounds before suddenly it was distracted by a massive semi intact transport ship that rammed into it from behind knocking it off balance.

"I see you left one for us." Said Gemini over the private comms channel as she and Kim piloted the ship and flew it in circles around the massive Scourge lifeform with Kim shooting her lightning rifle out through the hole in the broken and jagged cockpit windows. The lightning rifles shots further damaged the Scourge lifeform throwing shards of crystal and blood into the air round it before with one massive boost of the semi intact transport ships engines. Gemini rammed the Scourge lifeform in the stomach causing it to be catapulted backwards as it flailed it's limbs around before getting sucked out of the hanger bay's entrance and burning up in the atmosphere. "Thanks for that and stand by for pickup."

Suddenly the semi intact gunship flew over and stopped right next to Jack, Sam, Sophia, Lauren, Kira, Sarah, and Kristal.

"Heres our ride let's get aboard." Said Jack gesturing towards the heavy gunship before pushing himself off the piece of debris that he was behind and launching himself towards the semi intact transports boarding ramp that was currently open. "Follow me."

"You don't need to ask me twice." Said Sam as she pushed off a series of nearby debris and shot into the back of the semi intact transport ship landing right next to Jack who she gave a quick hug before pushing both her and Jack to the floor again as Kristal, Lauren, Sarah and Kira floated into the back of the semi intact transport ship. Suddenly Sophia's body was once again covered in raw purple energy as she shot towards the back of the semi intact transport ship and slammed the boarding ramp shut before flying over to the cockpit and gesturing for Gemini and Kim to fly out of the hanger bay.

Suddenly Gemini pushed the throttle leaver all the way forward and the semi intact transport ship began to fly towards the hanger bays entrance at high speed with Sophia flying alongside the cockpit window.

"Were entering the atmospheric turbulence." Yelled Gemini as she flew the semi intact transport ship through the debris that was floating around inside the hanger bay causing the debris that were hit to go shooting off before crashing into yet more debris starting a chain reaction. "Everyone get into the acceleration seats this is going to get bumpy."

"Right thanks for the heads up." Yelled Sam as herself, Jack, Kristal, Lauren, Sarah and Kira got

into there acceleration seats before pulling down the top half of there acceleration seats. "We are all in the acceleration seats and are ready when your are."

"Ok here we go." Yelled Gemini as with a huge bump the semi intact transport ship shot out of the hanger bay and pulled up so as to fly back into space all the while escorted by Sophia who was still easily maintaining her position alongside the cockpit.

Genricar-1477 moon 17 atmosphere  
semi intact transport ship

"Kim we need to go faster." Yelled Gemini looking worriedly at the holographic display ahead of her that was showing her speed and altitude as well at the semi intact transport ship's trajectory into space and realising that they would need much more speed if they were going to outrun the explosion of the 38-9C when it impacted the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17. "Reroute all available power to the engines."

"Ok give me a few seconds." Said Kim as she tapped commands into the holographic display in front of her which was displaying massive amounts of information about the ships engine systems. "Ok that Should do it."

Suddenly there was a massive burst of acceleration and Kim, Gemini, Sam, Jack, Kristal, Lauren, Sarah and Kira got pushed sharply into the back of there acceleration seats due to the huge burst of acceleration.

Out of the window Gemini could see the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 fall away and be replaced by first sky before suddenly being plunged into the blackness of space.

"Thats orbit." Said Gemini as the 38-9C collided with the surface of Genricar-1477 moon 17 instantly disintegrating Genricar-1477 moon 17 and sending a massive fire ball shooting in all directions into space. "Not a moment to soon."

"It's gaining on us." Yelled Kim as she looked backwards out of the window towards the massive fireball that seemed to be chasing the semi intact gunship. "I am going to dump the torsion fuel into the engines see if that gives us the speed we need to outrun the fireball."

Suddenly the semi intact transport ship's was hit by a massive burst of acceleration and Kim, Gemini, Sam, Jack, Kristal, Lauren, Sarah and Kira got pushed even more sharply into the back of there acceleration seats as the semi intact transport ship's speed increased massively this time reaching a speed that was faster than the fireball that was pursuing them with Sophia visible just outside the cockpit's window effortlessly keeping herself flying at the same speed as the semi intact transport ship.

"The artifact is gone." Said Lauren over the living cables to Kristal. "So asset denial was successfully completed and the Scourge won't be able to use good old fashioned time travel to defeat us."

"Gemini darling." Said Sophia directly to Gemini through a secure comms channel. "Can you dock with the KDI Abyssseiiiy and I will meet you there."

"I am going to drop you all off on the KDI Abyssseiiiy." Yelled Gemini as she pushed forward on the joystick causing the semi intact transport ship to dive under a Scourge dreadnought narrowing avoiding it's point defenses as she she piloted the ship at high speed across it's surface. "That is apart from Sam and Jack your both going to join me and Kim on a flight back to the Logistics Command center in Cassiopeia onboard one of the KDI Abyssseiiiy's frigates."

"Sure no problem." Yelled Kria from her acceleration seat that was situated in the area behind the cockpit. "We made it out thats the important thing."

"Sophia this is Gemini." Said Gemini over a private chat to Sophia. "We are heading to the KDI Abyssseiiiy to drop off everyone before returning to base so your free to brake formation at any time after we dock with the KDI Abyssseiiiy."

"Ok will do." Said Sophia over the private channel whilst at the same time doing a corkscrew around the semi intact transport ship. "Fly safe then."

Suddenly Sophia shot upwards and faced towards the Scourge carrier that had just moved into combat range just moments ago and relocated her left hand so it was in front of her and fired a highly unstable bright purple beam that crackled with raw energy towards the Scourge dreadnought.

Suddenly the beam connected with the surface of the Scourge dreadnought causing it to explode into 97 pieces as well as a cloud of blood and crystal.

Sophia then proceeded resume flying alongside the semi intact transport ship.

Leaving the debris bouncing off and colliding with other pieces of debris wreckage and blood causing them to float off into space in every direction.

Then all of a sudden the Scourge ships began to enter a full retreat and began breaking off from the battle.

"There on the retreat." Said Sapphire over fleetcom1. "All ships move to engage don't let them get away."

"I guess it's my turn to do something really awesome." Said Sophia over fleetcom1 as she surged with raw purple energy for 5 seconds before releasing the raw purple energy sending a

massive shockwave in all directions disabling the Scourge ships faster than light systems before ejecting the next 2 glucose capacitors into space causing them to float off behind her.

"Standby."

"The Scourge fleet isn't going anywhere." Said sapphire over fleetcom1. "let's take them down."

"No need." Said Sophia over fleetcom1 as she dived downwards and her body surged with raw purple energy igniting the dust particles nearby. "I can finish this myself."

"Everyone watch this." Said Sophia over fleetcom1. "All ships brace for dark energy shockwave."

Suddenly a massive purple explosion shot out of Sophia's body in all direction instantly detonating all the remaining Scourge ships leaving behind clouds of blood and crystal.

"Well thats mission accomplished I will stay here to help clear up." Said Sophia over fleetcom1 as she shot off into the distance as her final 2 glucose capacitors ejected off her back and into space. "Gemini your clear to disengage from this location and return to base."

"Copy that thanks for your help." Said Gemini over fleetcom1 as she dived the semi intact transport ship under the wreck of a Scourge carrier and lined the ship up with the KDI Abyssseiiiy's main hanger bay. "This is Gemini Eden requesting landing permission on the KDI Abyssseiiiy's main hanger bay."

"This is the KDI Abyssseiiiy hanger control." Said the KDI Abyssseiiiy's hanger control over a private control channel with Gemini. "Your clear for landing please proceed to the main hanger bay."

"Thanks were on the way." Said Gemini over the private comms channel with the KDI Abyssseiiiy as she continued to fly the semi intact transport ship towards the KDI Abyssseiiiy's main hanger bay. "We will be with you momentarily."

Remains of Genricar-1477 moon 17  
semi intact transport ship

Suddenly the semi intact transport ship arrived in the hanger bay into the main hanger bay of the KDI Abyssseiiiy.

"Right were there." yelled Gemini over her shoulder as she tapped a series of commands into the holographic console next to her and with a massive amount of noise the landing gear and boarding ramp extended and seconds later they touched down on the hanger bays deck.

"Thanks for everything and I will stay in contact."

"Right we need to find another ship." Said Kim as she and Gemini pushed up the top half of her acceleration seat and switched off the main power breaker before they stood up causing the living cables to pop out of the sockets on there backs and reconnected the living cables between the 8 sockets on each of there backs before they walked out of the semi intact transport ship alongside Sam, Jack, Kristal, Lauren, Sarah and Kira. "We will be at Cassiopeia Kire-477, Duality Logistics Command center if you need us otherwise stay safe."

"Alright see you later." Said Sarah as she walked off towards the hanger bays exit airlock alongside Kira. "Keep in touch."

"Gemini it was a pleasure fighting with you." Said Kristal as she disengaged Lauren from the living cable ports on her back and threw it over to Gemini. "Here is Lauren back remember to take good care of her."

"Don't worry I will." Said Gemini catching Lauren in her arms as Kristal ran off to catch up with Kira. "Now Sam, Kim and Jack let's go home. We can borrow the trinity nearby for our trip home."

Suddenly Sophia shot into the KDI Abyssseiiy's main hanger bay creating a sonic boom. Followed by rush of air as she decelerated and landed on her feet.

"Gemini you did awesome." Said Sophia as she looked towards Gemini with a large smile on her face. "You faced the fire and came out on top. Your a true Eden you know that right."

"Thanks I really appreciate you saying that." Said Gemini as Sophia's purple glow dissipated as the energy dissipated. "Thanks again for saving us."

"I am not legendary for nothing darling." Said Sophia as she brushed her long blond hair out of her pink - purple eyes. "Saving the universe is something I do on a daily basis these days. Saving you was my pleasure I would do it again in a heartbeat."

"See you soon mum." Said Sam as she leapt forward and gave Sophia a hug. "We have to got to go and head back with Gemini and Kim."

With that Gemini, Kim, Sam and Jack walked over to the trinity and walked up the boarding ramp and Sam and Jack sat down In the acceleration seats in the cockpit and Gemini and Kim went into the wetware room.

"Right Gemini your going to hate me for this." Said Kim as she walked behind Gemini into the wetware room. "I need to take all of the bone fragments out of your back before they get infected or something."

"Fine not a problem." Said Gemini as she placed Lauren's fragment on the ground before herself and Kim disengaged there armor and it fell to the floor in two neat piles.

"Give me second to lie down." Suddenly Gemini striped naked and Lied down on top of the biological surface of the wetware table her back facing upwards.

"Ok this might feel a bit weird." Said Kim as she tapped a few commands into the holographic display as that hung over the wetware table as the trinity vibrated as it lifted into the air and shot into space and engaged it's advanced cloaking systems. "Hold as still as you can."

Suddenly the sides of the wetware table rised up by 35 centimeters and the resulting basin began to fill with dark red blood to keep the blood pressure.

Then Kim bent down and leaned over Gemini holding a small handheld laser cutter in her left hand and using her right hand to feel for bone fragments that were out of place.

"Ouch that hurt." Said Gemini as Kim began to cut into Gemini's back below the surface of the pool of dark red with a bit of light green blood before pulling out the loose bone fragments one by one with her free right hand. "It also tickles slightly."

"Whatever you do Just lie still." Said Kim as she reached the halfway point down Gemini's back and placed 3 more bone fragments into the incinerator before continuing to slide her hands through the pool of light green blood feeling for more bone fragments. "I have almost finished and besides if we leave these in your back they could get a serious infection and I don't want us to have to visit Origin if I can help it."

Suddenly there was a burst of acceleration as the trinity entered torsion leaving light grey mist where it was just seconds ago.

## Chapter 16

### The new Eden

Compressed space-time  
Trinity  
Wetware room

"Gemini you alright." Asked Kim as she removed the last of the bone fragments out of Gemini's back. "After all we have been through quite a lot recently."

"Yeah I'm fine." Said Gemini as she looked down at the floor trying to figure out what the weird marks on the floor were. "I have been through worse."

"Look Gemini your with me and when it's just us everything doesn't have to be alright." Said Kim kindly as she began to hold the sides of the incision on Gemini's back together so that they would Begin to form a blood clot and hold them together. "If you need to talk I am and always will be here."

"Thanks Kim it means a lot to here that coming from you." Said Gemini as the blood on the wetware table drained away and the sides of the wetware table retreated into the surface of the wetware table. "But truly I am fine it takes a lot to get to an Eden something that you will find out soon when we connect affinity's."

"I look forward to it." Said Kim. "I love you Gemini and I new that from the moment I saved you all those years ago."

"So Kim we have some time." Said Gemini. "Want to have sex."

"Oh yeah." Said Kim as she helped Gemini to roll over on the wetware table before getting undressed herself and climbing on top of Gemini. "I do."

"Kim I like you more than I like onion soup and that is saying something. Also now is a really good time." Stammered Gemini as Kim had started to vigorously rub Gemini's clitoris causing her body to slowly tense up and small beads of sweat to run down her body and drip onto the floor. "But we are not going to have long till we get home."

"Well you should probably do me then." Said Kim from her position on top of Gemini as she guided Gemini's hand over her own clitoris and Gemini began rubbing so as to return the favor. "That way we can reach orgasm faster."

"You could of waited till we got home." Stammered Gemini as she began to tense up even

more. "I will still be here later you can take me then."

"Wheres the fun in that." Said Kim airily as she collapsed on top of Gemini as she suddenly reached orgasm. "Besides I want you now not later."

"Well thanks I guess." Said Gemini airily as she suddenly reached orgasm and grabbed hold of Kim. "Well it is nice to feel loved."

Suddenly the Trinity banked hard to the left and Kim and Gemini fell off the wetware table and onto the floor where they rolled over to side of the room one meter from the door then back to the table as the trinity leveled out.

"Well that was exciting." Said Kim between her rapid breathing as small beads of sweat rolled down her forehead and dripped down onto Gemini. "We should probably get dressed."

"No need we still got time before we get there." Said Gemini airily her arms still draped over Kim. "So you want to keep going for a bit longer." "Sounds good." Said Kim airily. "I'm in I mean literary I'm in."

Compressed space-time

Trinity

Bridge

"So what do you think Gemini and Kim are doing then." Said Sam laid back in her acceleration seat as she navigated through compressed space-time with one hand on the throttle leaver and the other hand on the joystick. "I mean they have been in there for quite a while."

"I would suspect that Gemini and Kim are getting it on." Said Jack looking over towards Sam who was sitting in the pilots seat beside him. "You know having sex I mean it was bound to happen."

"Yeah but on a starship." Said Sam looking back towards Jack with a disapproving look on her face. "I was hoping they would wait till after we dropped them off."

"Oh come on Sam it's kinda romantic being in space amongst the stars." Said Jack shooting a disapproving look towards Sam. "Besides you were no better you saved me. Then the second after I asked you if you wanted to have sex. You said yes and jumped me and we had sex in the elevator leading up to your apartment."

"First I own that elevator well technically the whole building." Said Sam shooting a annoyed face in Jack's direction. "Also you were too sexy to let me put my attention on anyone else or leave alone so yeah I couldn't take it any more and just went for it."

"It's ok it all turned out fine in the end." Said Jack as he carefully studied the holographic map ahead of him and saw that they were about to arrive at there destination. "Sam were about to arrive at Cassiopeia Kire-477, Duality Logistics Command center."

"Fantastic although that said I am going to be heading straight to Gemini's apartment." Said Sam as she threw the torsion lever on the overhead panel into the disengaged position. "Well we got back in one piece so I would say mission accomplished."

Suddenly the trinity decelerated covering the window in a cloud of fine grey mist and catapulting everything that wasn't anchored to the Trinity's structure forward.

"This is Samantha Charles Eden requesting docking permission for Gemini Edens flat as I am dropping her off." Said Sam over the comms to Duality's flight control center. "In other words this is Trinity hull number TC-566-432-665-T Requesting final approach clearance."

"That is confirmed Trinity TC-566-432-665-T," Said a flight coordination officer over the comms. "Please proceed with your final approach and docking procedure."

Compressed space-time  
Trinity  
Wetware room

"By the sounds of it we are almost home." Said Kim as she and Gemini struggled to put there clothes back on as the ship kept rocking from side to side as Sam flew the Trinity along the final approach path to Gemini's apartment. "I can't wait to take a good bath."

"Kim I don't really want to be in a hot and steamy room." Said Gemini looking over towards Kim as she pulled her top on. "After all I we might get turned on again and end up having more sex which would not be ideal as I am really tired."

"Oh come on theres no way I am that hot." Said Kim looking back towards Gemini as the Trinity's landing gear made a grinding noise as they moved into place before engaging with a loud clang before reaching down and picking up Lauren's fragment. "Besides I am ready for bed so tell you what we will just get straight into bed tonight and then whatever happens happens. Then tomorrow we will both have a bath, get dressed and have breakfast then I will take you to Origin and we will get your heart and spines sorted then after that we need to get Lauren a fragment recharging station from Origin. Then I am taking you for a romantic night out on Midnight."

Suddenly there was a semi musical series of 5 knocks on the door making Gemini jump right up into Kim's arms.

"You have reached your destination." Announced Sam from the other side of the door to the

wetware room. "Thanks for flying a Eden crewed Trinity and we hope to see you again soon."

"You sure will." Exclaimed Gemini as the wetware room door sprung open and Gemini barreled out of the room and into Sam's waiting arms. "Thanks Jack for everything you have done for me."

"No problem Gemini." Said Sam as Gemini continued to cling to her waist. "It was our pleasure."

"It's good to see you again and many thanks for the assistance and Gemini I am your girlfriend not Sam silly." Said Kim shaking Jack's hand. "Anyway we wouldn't of been able to do it without your help."

"Not a problem Kim anytime." Said Jack as he shook Kim's hand. "Also remember that if you ever need us were only a comms message and a few hours flight time away."

"Thanks again." Said Gemini as she stopped clinging onto Sam and grabbed hold of Kim's left hand with her right hand turned to face the docking tube to Gemini's apartment. "We will stay in touch and come to visit you soon."

With that Gemini and Kim stepped into the airlock that separated Gemini's apartment from the Trinity and stood patiently in the airlock as it cycled.

Gemini and Kim then walked straight into a deep orange-red light that was streaming in from the living rooms window and cascading across the surfaces of the room.

Kim and Gemini then proceed to walk through Gemini's living room that was covered in tons of both Gemini's and Kim's clothes scattered haphazardly all over the floor of the living room.

"Ok this is getting really inconvenient." Said Gemini as she and Kim clambered over the mass of clothes on the floor of the apartment and entered the bedroom. "We should really clean that up."

"Yeah or we could do more of what we love." Said Kim as she placed Lauren on the bedside table before proceeding to dump her clothes into the washing basket at the end of Gemini's bed before jumping up into Gemini's bed and tapping her hand on the bit of mattress beside her. "Why don't you come to bed with me."

"Now your something I can get behind." Said Gemini as she striped off her clothes and threw them into the washing basket before diving into her bed beside Kim and pulling the covers over both herself and Kim. "After all the most important thing in this universe. The one thing worth fighting for is love it's the most powerful force there is. If we have love on our side then humanity will survive."

# **THE**

# **END**

Cover Art by R B Griephan