

The Eden's

book 3

two years after the legendary Aurora Samantha Charles Eden resigned from the Aurora the universe is getting more unstable, with the private military force titan core now running covert missions throughout the frontier systems, monitoring the state of the barrier, which after over 300,000 years of being online is getting closer to needing a full retrofit with current technology as well as several of its key systems needing to be replaced before it can really be called an impregnable wall again.

It's in this volatile time that our hero's, Sam and Jack, live in. But given enough time, conflict returns. So as I believe the saying goes "once more into the breach"

chapter one here we go again

(Tri circle
Ventura
cravon's nebular
aura
jack and sam apartment
kitchen)

(local time 0787)

its the early hours of the morning with Ventura's main star just coming over the horizon casting long red shadows across the floor of the apartment. Meanwhile Sam is having breakfast : the onion soup from the night before as jack walks into the kitchen and sits down on the table opposite sam . "you ready Sam "asked jack. "Yeah but I can't help feeling that we haven't seen the last of the exodus" "look Sam it's been like two years" jack pointed out. "yeah but still the exodus threat must still be around" "look Sam getting stressed is pointless ; it just get you nowhere ; and anyway your teaching in an hour so you must keep your stress down for at least your working hours." "yeah ok see you later" sam says as she gets up and walks into the corridor leading to the lift her nanoframe glowing red in places where the metal catches the light.

(Aura
refit station 27701_33v1
Dreadnought
November Command Bridge)

(local time 0788)

admiral vine had just walked onto the bridge and already he had a problem. His problem was he had lost a large amount of money during the war with the exodus two years earlier and as a result the UUDF had been refusing his requests to pay for the repair of the armour off his ship stating that it wasn't a good use of their resources. The exact words were "we could build 15 frigates with the materials that it would take to repair all the armour of the November and don't even get me started on the condition of the Novembers computer systems; which are so broken that we really need to just refit the whole ship."

when vine got to his chair paced right in front of the main holographic display he discovered that his first problem was about to get shoved back into the front of his mind.

“vine what the hell is this ; your ships 20 years old ; half the armours falling off and when I took a walk around the observation deck i was attacked by a automated hallway repair system.”

“oh crap region command ; err I can explain.” “you better hope that you can dam well explain ; have you got any idea how much the UUDF spent getting this ship ; and you don’t even maintain it properly.” “look we have almost no budget to keep this ship running.” “look vine I have been waiting for you to do this for the last two years ; and I am unwilling to wait any longer ; you have until next week to fix all the problems with this ship or you will be demoted all the way out of this organisation ; do I make myself clear.” “sir yes sir” admiral vine yelled at region command as he left the room. “wow” said vine “what a loser” “i heard that vine you now have three days to fix the November” “sir yes sir” yelled vine back towards region command.

(Tri circle

Ventura

cravon’s nebular

aura

jack and sam apartment

main lift)

(local time 0789)

as Sam was riding the lift down to the she decided to check her messages so she logged on to her login at UUDF/battlenet/classified/spec-ops/other/Aurora-secure-login she then navigated to her current mission’s page which now contained no entry’s and begun to read through other messages on her login. Whilst looking for something of interest to read she found a message from admiral vine it said quite simply “in a lot of bother right now as region command just took one look at the November ; got very pissed off and started going of on one of his famous rants ; hope you were here (to take the blame) vine” the message also contained a few starmaps of the areas surrounding the November.

“wow glad I am not in vines position right now” said Sam half laughing “sounds like he is getting torn to pieces over that old ship ; I told him it was something he needed to chuck out before the UUDF commanders caught up with him.” “fail”

As the lift ascended up the side of the skyscraper towards the roof where Sam’s frigate the titan core vessel “True Light” was docked; hovering off the side of the building the assault frigate looked like a large tower block on its side ; a much more blocky ship than the destiny; however unlike the destiny “True Light” was a proper combat ship rather than the fast but completely harmless destiny.

As Sam reached the docking tube she noticed the red star rising rapidly over the city’s horizon; casting a eerie red light over the whole upper-city. Then without a second look she was on her frigate ready for her short trip in system torsion jump. “Welcome Samantha Charles Eden Aurora; the True Light is awaiting your command” the ships AI said without displaying an avatar ; the “True Light” was an unusual ship in which the ships AI had no avatar just the hexagons on the ships displays to show itself. “yeah the primary jump to Hosstt” “confirmed commencing undock torsion in 32.173 seconds” “thanks” said Sam sitting down on the captain’s chair on the bridge of “True Light”

“True Light” was a fast ship and today was no different the ship made orbit in a mere 12 seconds and after it had left Ventura’s starspace it entered torsion with a small flash of purple from the engines. Only to emerge seconds later in orbit around Hosstt ; a distance of over 443,789 kilometres

crossed with extreme ease in under a second.

“standard orbit achieved ; we are now orbiting Hosstt ; the local time is 0815” “right bring us in to land ; coordinates gamma 273” the “True Light” banked hard to the right and commenced a short deorbit burn of its primary engines before descending into the dense atmosphere of Hosstt.

Sam was looking out of the bridge's primary viewport ; but she couldn't see much ; this is due to Hosstt having a highly active atmosphere which maintained high windspeeds and regular air turbulence ; this atmosphere was however the perfect location for the formation of the rare element zentrium ; which is the fuel source to all torsion capable starships.

“bring up surface the surface grid” “loading surface grid ; displaying on primary viewscreen.” a grid of hexagons started to cover the viewscreen starting from the sides and making its way inwards; once this was done a 3d map of hosstt formed behind the viewscreen.

“magnify area around livors academy” “hosstt or tri circle” “hosstt” said sam looking out of the viewscreen at a UUDF Assault frigate gliding effortlessly straight up into space. The ship was an impressive sight at 486 meters high and armed with 8 laser repeaters and 3 shard launchers. this vertical starship was ready for another war with the exodus. As the Assault frigate continued its ascent sam got a great look at its single main engine a huge Phoenix Graviton Drive or **PGD** which propels itself and the rest of the starship through space by pushing and pulling off stars in the local area around the ship. This means the more stars the ships **PGD** can 'lock' onto the faster the ship will be able to travel.

“right” said Sam “land there” “define there” said hex the ship's AI.

“display overlay” said sam looking frustrated. “done” said hex bringing up a grid of hexagons over the map each with a number in the middle. “right then hexagon 4” said sam pointing at the viewscreen. “confirmed groundside location” “surface contact in 30 seconds”

groundside a term used many times over the years in the war against the exodus. Although the origin of the word is unknown the meaning is; the word means “on the surface” this is different from the word “starside” which tends to mean “in space”

a few minutes later Sam had landed her starship “true light” in a docking bay about 800 meters from the academy and within a few minutes she was on the street walking through a market selling everything from nanoswarm enhancements to poorly cooked foodstuffs such as onion soup. After a few minutes she left the market streets and entered a security checkpoint and shortly after a guard walked up and said. “please present identification” “here” said Sam passing the guard her teaching identification. “your clear to proceed to the scanner” scanners are designed to detect items not allowed in the inner city. After Sam goes through the guard stops her from walking off by leaving the energy field up behind him. “ok come with me” he takes Sam inside his guard hut. “you have a titan core heavy plasma pistol on you; “I need to see your firearms licence before I can let you into the inner city” “not a problem” said Sam “here you are” handing him her UUDF firearms licence. “ah your Aurora ; not a problem I will inform the other checkpoints of the clearance ; given to Aurora's ; so we don't stop you again” “but I am EX-Aurora ; doesn't that change the clearance.” “nope and even then you are a bit of a legend so yeah; off you go”

a few minutes later later Sam reached the academy and walked into the mahogany covered entrance hall. “morning Eve” Sam said to the receptionist. “morning more like boring; I have had nothing but parents contacting me saying that their children are either coming in late or are not bothering at all; and the amount of people using the I am too ill to come in excuse is getting ridiculous” “i see” said

Sam walking off to the teaching rooms. “y3 y2 are here we go y1” Sam walks into the room; the room is full of students of 16 to 17 years old.

Sam makes her way over to the rooms holo-projection surface.(basically a grid of one inch across light blue hexagons which detect the users touch and change the projected data accordingly. “right then ; good morning class” said Sam tapping one of the hexagons to turn the holo-projector on. What followed was a mixture of “hi miss” “morning miss” “your late miss” and the classic “hurr” of a confused half asleep student. “oh come on ;you can do better than that; good morning class” said Sam whilst the holo-projector displayed her workspace. “good morning miss” the whole class said all at once. “ok now thats what I was waiting for” sam taps the workspace the hexagon goes red for a second before displaying an full-workspace starmap of the local space around hosstt. “right then today we will be looking at torsion drives and how they allow us to get anywhere in our universe within a month. Sam taps the starmap and it changes to a picture of a torsion drive.

“now do any of you know how one of these actually work?” said Sam. A shy pupil at the back rather nervously puts his hand up. “right then Gregory off you go” “well isn’t it kinda like a ;well; like a vaporise.” “not quite” said Sam having to suppress a small laugh. “right anyone else; got an idea of how a torsion drive could work” sam looks around the room onley to see that absolutely knowone has there hand up so sam launches into her definition of how it works.

“right ; A torsion drive works by manipulating space time in such a way that two locations that are far apart can be travelled between as if they were in the same location.” “you following?” after a round of nods and noises of encouragement Sam continued. “This method uses a torsion drive to finely slice a hole in space time at the drives starting position (the origin) and at the same time cut a second hole at the destination; The vessel then proceeds through the origin slit and after an amount of time equal to traveling 9% of the total distance via a Phoenix Graviton Drive the vessel emerges at the destination.”

“any questions” said sam looking around to see if everyone was paying attention. “yeah” said Gregory “i have one ; if the time it takes to travel the distance in torsion is approximately ; the same as the time it takes to 9% of the total distance; then wouldn’t the amount of power required to generate the waveform be high enough to negate most of the benefit gained from the speed increase?”

“ well yes and no ; you see if a starship say a frigate was to travel between points A and B then it would use up x amount of fuel; however due to the nature of torsion the fuel is only used up at 92.3 % of the rate which it would be used up in flying between the two locations via the use of a Phoenix Graviton Drive; so it ends up using up less fuel in the end.”

“right I have some work to get on with so of you can all work out the questions on the board and bring me the results when your done” said sam before sitting down at the front of the room near the holo-projection surface. A few minuets later a nosie from outside the academy made sam jump. The noise was a huge thud. Sam had heard the noise before, two years before, a starship had just come out of torsion in the atmosphere, and only one species has accurate enough torsion drives to come out inside a planet’s atmosphere; THE EXODUS.

Sam instantly went from teacher to Aurora as her many years of training and combat experience took over. She taps a hexagon to contact Eve. “Eve did you hear that” “yeah I heard it I am on my way to you” she turns to address the class. “right change of plan ; stay near me and be carefull” eve kicks in the door with her new battleframe and holding an singularity rifle. ”right cover me whilst I contact command” “ok” said eve sliding into cover behind one of the rear desks. Sam taps one of the hexagons to bring up a visual link with titan core command and sends the following message

//titan_core_secure_system/priority_transcom/1/ :the exodus have just exited torsion in the atmosphere above Hosstt send backup asap (ground contact likely-recommend drop pods to surface after arrival) Aurora Samantha Charles Eden out.//

Seconds later she receives the following message back from titan core command.

//titan_core_secure_system/command :we have deployed 5 battleyards to hosstt ETT for them will be 45 seconds command out.//

“Right” said sam drawing her pistol. “true light; move out” Eve sam and the class begin to move towards the entrance of the academy and there almost there when eve puts her hand out to the left hand side to stop sam walking into an awaiting group of exodus in the reception. “6 contacts 12 o’clock low” said eve. “we take them out fast” said eve as she vaporised from in front of sam to the other side of the doorway. “ready?” eve asked sam. “yeah engage” sam swings her pistol round the doorframe and starts taking carefully aimed headshot’s at the exodus. Eve overcharges her singularity rifle swings it round the doorframe the light from the overcharge lighting up the corridor with a light blue light. Eve fires the overcharged shot into the group of exodus; for a second one would think that nothing had happened then suddenly a miniature black hole appeared out of nowhere and takes out one exodus who was unfortunate enough to be standing only a meter from the singularity. The other 5 exodus weren’t so lucky three had their heads blown off by sam’s pistol. And the other 4 were hit by large splinters of mahogany which were being forcefully torn off by the singularity. The reception was a wreck but they live through it and after the singularity collapsed they sprinted down the stairs and straight out the door and onto the street.

What met there eye’s was a site of pure chaos. Exodus assault troops were being dropped in straight from orbit without using drop pods. And were proving to much of a fight for the security forces stationed on hosstt. To add to this problem every few seconds another exodus ship came out of torsion with a bang and with a brief pulse of its engines entered a low, in atmosphere orbit of host.

“this is not good said eve” looking out into the battle for hosstt. “well at least those type of exodus frigates don’t have anti ground weapons” said sam beginning to sprint back towards “True light” “miss” said Gregory “completed the work” “Gregory now is really not the time” said sam taking out an exodus infiltrator with a quick three shots from her pistol.

“whatever happened to your assault rifle” asked eve. “it’s at home; Jack’s at home” said Sam looking worried. “what jacks not with you” said eve now also looking worried. “no he doesn’t like joining me for my trips to and from work.” Said Sam “just saying we could use the extra firepower.” “and my assault rifle” said Sam shooting another exodus with her pistol before reloading as they passed the checkpoint and entered the market. “yeah that would be helpful” replied eve.

Suddenly an exodus landed right in front of the group ; eve shot it with her singularity rifle and it fell onto with an metallic thud. “good shot” said sam looking back at the exodus over her shoulder as they were still sprinting. Then suddenly a huge starship exited torsion right above them taking out a exodus frigate as it went ,splitting it right down the middle. Then sam’s communication system came to life on her wrist computer and out for it came the voice of a region commander. “this is the Titan Core battleyard 27-4A we are on station and moving to engage the exodus fleet; the UUDF battle group will arrive in orbit momentarily.” A split second later 4 more battle yards and two dreadnoughts come out of torsion and just as the 27-4A had done they take took out an

exodus ship on their way out of torsion. “this is admiral vine of the UUDF November we are engaging the enemy.”

“Where’s sapphire” sam said to eve over the noise of the orbital space fight which had broken out just above the orbital plane. “don’t know” said eve. Sam eve and the class were sprinting down the docking tube which lead to “true light” when sam got another person’s voice coming out over her wrist computer. “this is sapphire ethereal of the Titan Core December : region command for aura and Andromeda ; i will be running this operation; all available ships engage the exodus on the orbital plane ; we need to buy time for the civilian extraction of hosstt to be completed” “sapphire how are the exodus in aura” said sam over her wrist computer. “barrier was down for maintenance at 6700 local time ; there are still as couple of exodus ships left to destroy which slipped through are hyper-capital wall over in the frontier; anyway recommend you get out of the spacefight before it gets any bigger ; sapphire ethereal out.”

Sam reached the bridge and commanded the “true light“ to return home before sitting down in the captain’s chair. The “true light rapidly climbed into orbit, aligned with Ventura and commenced it’s jump to torsion. “now that was close” said eve after they had made the torsion jump back to Ventura. “yeah” said sam “way to close”

chapter two a hectic home

(Tri circle
Ventura
cravon’s nebular
aura
jack and sam apartment
living room)

(local time 0788)

“So let’s get this straight you were in a battle; at work” said jack
“Yeah” said Sam. “Without any armour” said jack. “yeah ; I know it’s dangerous but I didn’t expect a full scale war at hosstt ; now did I” “sam I am not going to start yelling ; but not having amour during a battle is incredibly dangerous ; I mean what if one of the exodus had hit you with their weapons fire.” “it’s fine me and eve got the first shot on every exodus we came across.” “that’s barely an excuse” said jack now looking a bit less worried. “Right ;well that's enough action for one day” said eve. “yeah” said jack “definitely”

a few minutes later Sam had put on the news and was watching it on her holo-projection surface.

“there was some concern today surrounding the security around hosstt. as a large exodus fleet mounted an assault on the surface.” said the newscaster. “we now go live to sapphire ethereal who staged the counter attack which managed to push the exodus off hosstt.” the holo-projection surface switches over to displaying thousands of drop pods coming in from orbit only to come slamming into the ground where a fully armed squad of Aurora would come sprinting out whilst firing at all nearby exodus ground troops, vaporising from cover to cover when needed.

“Sapphire what is your view on the exodus attempt to take hosstt” “well it was predicted and I have had my fleet on standby for such an attack for the last week.” “Right” said the newscaster. “well you see we have been preforming upgrades to increases the effectiveness of the barrier; so a few exodus starships are expected to slip through.” “and when are the upgrades going to be competed” asked the newscaster. “some time in the next few days ; but I wouldn’t worry as a large portion of

our fleets have been put on defence missions ;to protect our star systems.” “right viewers that was sapphire ethereal region commander for aura ; commander thank you for your time” “not a problem” the news then went to the next news story.

Jack turned off the holo-projection surface as the phrase “legendary aurora Samantha Charles Eden returns to active duty?” displayed in front of a clip from the firefight on the surface of hosstt containing sam sprinting down the streets and shooting a lot of exodus with incredible accuracy.

“sam what the hell you have made the main news story again ; remember covert.” “what I wasn’t trying to make the news ; I just have a lot of people who follow me.” “look” said jack “you can’t go running around in plain sight being that awesome ;and just expect people not to notice.” “look I am going to have a snack so see you in a bit” said Sam leaving Eve looking confused at jack, jack looking the same way at eve and Sam’s class just looking really confused.

A few minutes later sam comes back over to the living room from the kitchen. “ok I have contacted the parents of my class and they are on their way to collect them ; I have also forwarded work to a supply teacher to do with the class till were done with our thing ;so yeah.” “miss said Gregory ; do we have to have a supply teacher ; we won’t be able to learn as much from them as from you.” “nah I think it will work out ; as an old friend of mine agreed to do it; she’s also a physics teacher and she is flying in tomorrow from the frontier.” “who is she miss” “katia ; not to worry she’s very good at her job and is a huge fan of having fun and going on trips as part of the course.” “nice” said Gregory. “yeah said Sam , I thought you would like her.”

(local time 0973 the next day)

“well so much for getting to teach.” said Sam “yeah I know” said jack “well” eve added “we should head to the titan core command location” “right” said Sam as they walked back onto “true light” when they got to the bridge sam said out loud “get us to titan core’s main headquarters. “confirmed setting course for Garron 5”

Garron 5 was a world covered in a single global ocean with a depth of between 30,000 and 70,000 meters deep; the water on Garron 5 is undrinkable as it contains a large content of zentrierium. The titan core base covered all of the ocean floor as well as many thousands of meters below that.

(Garron 5
voidstar
Darklight
Veranon
“True Light”bridge)

(local time 0974)

“Standard orbit achieved” ”true light’s” AI said an hour later after “true light” had exited torsion. After entering orbit “True light” immediately was contacted by the titan core base many thousands of meters below. “This is titan core command. This is a restricted star system leave now or we will be forced to open fire.” “this is ex-Aurora Samantha Charles Eden of the starship True light we request landing permission ; authorisation code 45321.67789.45611.34521.11339” after a few tense minutes the reply came back. “true light you have clearance to land; please proceed to docking pillar 556671 for landing.” “confirmed proceeding to pillar 556671 for landing clearance received.”

the titan core base on Garron 5 is has the only pillar docking system in the whole of our universe. The pillars work as follows

1	Pillar extends out of the ocean floor base's hanger bay.
2	Pillar disengages magnetic docking clamps
3	Starship lands on pillar
4	Pillar re-engages magnetic docking clamps
5	Pillar returns to ocean floor base's hanger bay.

A few minutes after the “true light” was dragged underwater it arrived in one of the bases main hanger bay’s.

The security of this base was incredibly high; before they had even reached “true lights” airlock Titan Core security personal were waiting outside the airlock to check everyone’s DNA, Nanoswarms and primary weapon and clear them for access to the installation.

Sam approached one of the Titan Core security personal. He had a serious “don’t mess with me” kind of look on his face. This was reinforced by the heavily armoured battleframe he was wearing as well as the ORB rifle he was holding across his chest.

As Sam got nearer he said “present identification” after checking Sam’s main weapon an assault chain gun with ornate engravings and the inscription ”finite patience infinite firepower.”

He went on to check her DNA and nanoswarm. This took much longer as the DNA and nanoswarm had to be separated in a small centrifuge filled with a disintegration agent to remove the other organic material form the DNA.

“your ex-Aurora” he said looking at her genetically engineered blood. Which was light green , glowing and slowly getting dissolved by the nanoswarm as it reconnected with the DNA in the blood, realised that it was outside Sam’s body and evaporated.

“Right your clear” he said pointing behind him down towards the other end of the docking tube.

“thanks” said Sam before walking off down the corridor towards the network of undersea corridors and rooms that made up the base. Most lit form the sunlight coming in through the diamond glass ceiling that was the barrier between the base and 60,000 meters of ocean above.

A few minutes later they walked into the most important room in the base the operations room that contained a huge holographic map of our universe with thousands of people standing around it rapidly tapping away at workstations, monitoring the security of Titan Core space.

One of the officers in the room immediately got up walked over to Sam and said “the meeting about the attack on hosstt is in progress; it’s this way.”

“Right” said Sam as they began to walk into a into gravimetric acceleration tube. Once they were in the tube massive acceleration hit them and pulled them towards the planning room at 900 meters per second. However after a few seconds they were hit by a huge burst of acceleration as their speed when up to 900.000 meters per second as they were traversing a long distance. (the other side of the planet) 11 seconds later they passed into a deceleration segment before getting slow enough to float out the tube safely.

With a small bump their feet landed on the floor and they walked out into the planning room.

“what is that“ said Sam looking at wall mounted holographic display displaying a never before seen version of an beam weapon system.

“oh” said sapphire “that is an heavy ion cannon ; it ignores both armour and energy shields.”

“ok now that’s overpowered” Sam said looking even more interested than she was intending to.

“yeah it literally melts the ship it hits so we can’t fire it if one of our ships is in the way”

“and both armour and energy shields have no effect.” asked jack.

“nope said sapphire ; you can destroy an Exodus destroyer in about 15 seconds; the time it takes to melt its way through the ship and out the other side; with sustained beams of 45 seconds and a range of 762 million meters; it’s our best chance at winning the human Exodus war.”

“yeah that’s a lot of fire power” said Sam still interested in the conversation” so what ships can accept the weapon then”

“any starship larger than a frigate which can has at least a 54.2 billion volt per second capacitor. And any on-board military grade AI crystal.”

“and this is why we still have a chance” said jack commenting on the status of the war.

“we should mount an immediate offensive” “be patient Nova” “why should we wait when we can win this war once and for all” “look Nova we may of one that fight but they outnumber us with at least several billion to one” “region commander sapphire ethereal has arrived should I send her in said the receptionist” “yeah tell her to come in”

“Nova ,cray haven’t seen you in ages” “same” said Nova “so how was your trip here” “well it was exodus free if that’s what you are asking” “I see” said Nova “sapphire” said Cray “who are they” Cray said pointing in Sam’s direction. “oh yeah” said Eve “this is Samantha Charles Eden she’s EX-Aurora and this is Jack Eden also EX-Aurora.” “ar hur” said Cray “they helped us stop the exodus getting into our universe using there Artificial quantum entanglement tunnel.” “so there good then” “oh yeah definitely”

“well” Said Cray “Eve trusts you that’s good enough for us” “look Sam“ said Nova “we have a mission for you” “which is” asked Sam “Sam you have been to the exodus homeworld; this gives us an advantage as you know the exodus weaknesses” “yeah” said Sam “what do you need me to do”

“we have prepared a computer virus designed to completely destroy the exodus; it works by inputting thousands of unsolvable mathematical formula ;so that the exodus will divert all of their

available computing power to work on the question; overheat and then be destroyed”

“now that’s one hell of a plan” said Sam “I’m in

chapter three prepare to engage

(Garron 5
voidstar
Darklight
Veranon
Titan core headquarters)

(Local time 0975)

“Sam we have given the virus to Eve” said Cray “and will be giving you command of the battle yard 27-4A for this mission” “right I shall be heading off then” “oh and sam one more thing; the 27-4A is waiting near the frontier; contact the ship when you get to the frontier and it will provide you with its coordinates so you can dock with it” “right thanks” said sam “Jack lets go” gesturing towards the door. “see you later eve” “goodbye Sam and good luck.”

“Right” said Sam as here and jack began to jog back down the corridor leading to the gravimetric acceleration tube. “when we get to “True light” we will fly to the frontier using the E6-772-3B wormhole which should be stable enough to traverse ; as it hasn’t had many Starships fly through it this week.” Sam and Jack reach the gravimetric acceleration tube and step in. only to step out 11 seconds later in the operations room.

“right true light is over in the hanger bay we landed in” “right” said jack. They continued walking for another five minutes later before reaching the airlock connected to “true light.” When Sam reached the bridge the ships AI asked “Welcome Samantha Charles Eden Aurora” the AI then paused for a second in the digital analogue to thought and then said “destination required” “no need” said Sam sitting down in the bridges command chair “I will fly this op myself” “confirmed” said “True lights” AI as a joystick and variable thrust lever rised out of the arms of the chair.

“right” said Sam as Jack sat down and pulled down the top half of the acceleration seat down. “ready” “yep” said Jack “then” Sam flicks the switches to turn the engines on “here” Sam puts her hand on the throttle lever “we” Sam grabs the lever and begins to take it out of idle to 1% power “go” Sam shoves the throttle lever forward all the way to 100% and true light hurtles straight forward into a Starship vaporiser which comes out in orbit around Garron 5.

“right that’s orbit ; what’s the heading for the Frontier.” “289 by 131” said jack looking it up on a starmap in front of him. “right were coming up on the safe Torsion distance” “right” “ok were there turning to 289 by 131” said Sam pushing the joystick to the bottom right of its round socket. “right contact Titan core headquarters ; get clearance for frontier transition” “ok on it” said jack” “this is Jack Eden of the “True Light” requesting clearance for frontier transition via worm hole E6-772-3B” after a few seconds there was a response “confirmed “True Light” clearance is granted your second in the Torsion queue ; right after the December.” “roger that send confirmation when December is away” “roger that” said Titan core headquarters.

45 seconds later a response came back from Titan core’s headquarters. “true light” you are clear for Torsion heading 289 by 131 frontier transition via E6-772-3B ; repeat “true light” “clear for

torsion”

“True Light” clear for torsion have a nice day” jack switches off the intercom. “Sam punch it” “gladly” said Sam pushing the throttle lever forward so that was in the torsion segment and the ship leapt into torsion. The view on the primary viewscreen changed from a view of the Veranon System to absolute black in an instant. To be replaced with a realtime view of the status of the “True Light’s” subsystems.

(Garron 5
voidstar
Sector 455
frontier transition)

“right” said Sam “ it’s about 30 minutes to E6-772-3B so I am going to be on the lower deck : as the primary targeting computer is playing up again keeps jamming up the weapon systems. :by trying to load rounds before the last lot have even been fired.” “right I will stay on the bridge : and keep an eye on things up hear” “both eyes” said Sam in a somewhat comical tone.

A couple of minutes later a message came through from Eve it read

//titan_core_secure_system/Primary/operatives/Eve/ “true light I have just left Garron 5 and will be meeting up with the 27-4A//I shall wait for you there Eve//

A few seconds later Jack sent a message back to Eve reading

//titan_core_secure_system/Primary/operatives/Jack/ ok we are inbound /////1hour out//

Then all of a sudden a third far more important message from Ruby came through

//titan_core_secure_system/priority_transcom/1/ :the exodus have exited torsion 0.1 light billion form our current location: request immediate back up :deployment authorisation code 44897.25783.32138.k1A56.27-4A

“Sam” jack yelled “get back to the bridge quick” there was a short pause then there were a series of hurried footsteps followed by a small thump as Sam dumped herself back into the command chair.

“situation update Jack” “Exodus contact on Frontier as sighted by the 27-4A :they have already sent a message back to command explaining the station” “right so let’s go” said Sam moving the joystick slightly in order to cut of the wormhole from there flight plan.

(27-4A
Frontier
Combat information centre)

As The second the frontier’s region commander Ruby stepped onto the CIC her first officer started to give a situation update.

“Commander we have a full complement of ammunition the shields are at 100% and the resist is at 75% migration thanks to shield solidifiers also our armour is at 100% and we have sustained no damage to our superstructure and integrity fields are at 10% and charging”

“thanks” switches to ship wide communications “this is region command we are about to engage

the exodus fleet :all stations stand by for contact region command out”

Ruby turns to the first officer “sound battle stations and bring us to code Black”
“yes right away” said the first officer tapping hurriedly into her holo-tablet

Just moments later the Klaxons sounded and the lighting throughout the ship turned from a daylight emulating white to a dark red which proceed to pulse on and off getting brighter and darker. Meanwhile a pre-recorded message was going on in the background.
“all personnel report to your battle stations” followed by a second message “code black is in effect use maintenance access tunnels to move throughout the ship”

Although the messages kept going Ruby ignored them. Her focus instead on commanding her ship.

“tactical map to main view screen” the first officer put up the tactical map which displayed the 27-4A in the middle with about 20,000 Exodus ships ahead of them. One of them stood out a hyper-capital classed dreadnought with the target designation XR-6
“that’s primary” thought Ruby “tactical XR-6 is primary” the tactical officer locked up the target before turning round “commander we have Deadlock on XR-6 : request permission to engage”
“this is Ruby to all personnel on the 27-4A :weapons free”

All Battleyards have the ability to engage the whole hostile fleet at once.
The 27-4A was no exception the second the ship began its assault the Exodus fleet of about 20,000 ships broke out of there formation and scattered. As none of them wanted to be in the battleyards line of sight : range didn’t matter they were all in range when they jumped in.

(Garron 5
voidstar
Darklight
Veranon
Titan core headquarters)

Sapphire was in an important meeting discussing Sam’s ability to carry weapons in public.
“well she did save the class” said Cray “ “true” said sapphire
Sapphire then spotted a message on her holo-tablet it read

//titan_core_secure_system/priority_transcom/1/ sapphire I am under attack in the frontier / send backup immediately /don’t know how long this ship will hold up / come quick / your sister Ruby / I have also included the original message to the end of this one / also I recommend you bring /heavy firepower as multiple intervention class fire carriers and battlecruisers just entered the battle//////////////////// :the exodus have exited torsion 0.1 light billion form our current location: request immediate back up :deployment authorisation code 44897.25783.32138.k1A56.27-4A

“sorry Cray duty calls see you later” “ok” said Cray “and good luck”

Sapphire began to run down the corridor and didn’t stop till she reached her starship the Titan core vessel December.

Within minutes Sapphire had assembled a fleet of 102 dreadnoughts and then went into torsion straight to the frontier.

(frontier approach
Sector 978
transition
True Light bridge)

“right standby for contact” said Sam “right” said Jack “combat systems coming online” another message come through from the 27-4A on the main view screen it read.

//titan_core_secure_system/priority_transcom/1/ all ships : shields on my ship are at 22% backup needed ASAP/// Ruby out//

“right jack hail the 27-4A : tell Ruby were on the way”
“right said jack tapping several buttons to bring up the coms
“this is “True Light” were are on station and preparing to engage the hostile fleet” “jack switch singularity Sam said pointing at jack.” “confirmed switching to singularity missiles jack said flicking a switch above him” as soon as jack flicked the switch “True Light” reconfigured its outer hull and Acrperthum armour then two missile batteries extended out the sides and the singularity missiles began to glow a dark blue as they powered up.

“singularity missiles armed : clear to engage” “roger that”

(frontier approach
Sector 978
transition
December bridge)

“this is sapphire ethereal we are coming up on the frontier : all ships engage to destroy”

with a series of huge flashes of light the December and it's supporting fleet of 102 dreadnoughts exited torsion. Then with many more flashes of light Sapphires battle-group opened fire.

(27-4A
Frontier
Combat information centre)

“Ruby your sisters fleet has arrived: and are engaging the exodus fleet at stand-off range” “right” said Ruby as a huge 5000 meter wide beam of bright blue light shot out of one of 1000 heavy ion cannons on the front of the December.

“so I see” said Ruby “ by the way VX-1 just became primary target” “confirmed said the 27-4A's tactical officer “engaging VX-1 with heavy incendiary rounds to overheat shields and primary drive systems”

“this is sapphire all ships switch to incendiary round to overheat there shields : once there shields are down my battle-group can destroy the exodus fleet with our heavy ion cannons.”

(Frontier
True Light
Bridge)

“jack maintain singularity : aim for their main power subsystems said Sam pointing at the primary viewscreen “right on it said jack “ok trajectory alignment confirmed : singularity missiles have deadlock : firing” as jack said firing he taped the display in front of him until it said “launch singularity missiles” he pushed the button : “True Lights” full complement of 12 singularity missiles came shooting out of there tubes got about 100 meters in front of “True Light” fired their engines at the same time covering the main viewscreen with lens flairs.

(27-4A
Frontier
Combat information centre)

“Ruby “True Light” reports singularity missile deployment”
“right switch incendiary then continue firing on VX-1 : after VX-1 is destroyed AR-2 will become prime”

A split second a second huge 5000 meter wide beam of bright blue light shot out of the December. This time hitting an exodus frigate near the exodus flagship.

(Frontier
December
Bridge)

“Sapphire to all dreadnoughts : charge ion cannons then focus fire on the exodus flagship on my mark”

The bridge of the December was a truly incredible feat of engineering. Set in the core of the ship complete with its own armour and energy systems The bridge was 38,000 meters long and sloped down as it went along. Each row being 2 meters lower than the last. The room was also 17,000 meters wide and a large 12,000 high before it hit the top of the bridges viewscreen.

“Sapphire” said the tactical officer “all dreadnoughts are reporting 100% power on their ion cannons power systems:” “confirmed” said Sapphire “mark”
When sapphire said mark absolute chaos ensued. First the exodus flagship was hit by 103,000 heavy ion cannons. Now usually it would take between 15 and 45 seconds for an heavy ion cannon to melt through a enemy starship. However the exodus flagship was hit by so many at once that it was vaporised instantly.

The other exodus ships managed to evade the ion cannons fury manly due to them either not being targeted or commencing evasive maneuverers. Unfortunately for the exodus they were still in range of the singularity missiles launched by the “True Light” : the singularity missiles imploded creating 12 independent singularity’s : the gravitational currents were too much for the exodus ships limited structural integrity : and as a result all exodus ships were ripped into thousands pieces : and sucked into the nearest singularity.

A few seconds later the singularity’s dissipated and the fight was over.

(27-4A
Frontier
Combat information centre)

“is everyone all right” said Ruby “yeah” said Jack “were fine : didn’t even take a hit”
“I am fine” said “sapphire” “sapphire can I get recharged on energy and shields” “yeah” said
Sapphire “beginning recharge now”

(Dark Fury
Frontier
Bridge)

Eve arrived a few seconds later in her carrier “Dark Fury” coming out of torsion right under the 27-4A . “Seriously” said Eve over the fleet’s comms “seriously” said Eve again looking out the debris from the exodus fleet as well as the 102 dreadnoughts leaving the frontier via torsion. “I missed a spacefight: I missed what looks like a proper spacefight.”

“yeah” said Sam “it was cool” “very” agreed Ruby “well” said Sapphire “recharge complete I am heading back to base” and with a flash of light she was gone.

“Right” said Sam completely failing to see the tension “who wants Onion soup”

chapter four prepare for soup related action

(27-4A
Frontier
Biodome A)

Sam , Jack , Eve and Ruby had walked up onto Biodome A (one of 5 on the 27-4A) and were looking out of the dome above them at the frontier in which billions of ships were flying around each doing their own thing. Some civilian most military and all aware of the exodus threat.

“That’s some view” said Sam beginning to eat the onion soup that she had carried up from the 47-4A ‘s canteen. “it sure is” said Jack lying back down on the grass looking out at the frontier. The view was incredible with the Aura to the left and Voidstar to the right :also if one was to look very closely they would have been able to see the galaxies of Andromeda and Tri circle in the extreme distance : so small you would of needed massive amounts of magnification to see them. : all of this was set to the backdrop of half a million stars.

“you know” said Ruby “the exodus are still out there :endangering all human lives just by their mere existence” as Ruby pointed not up but straight ahead Sam thought “how much longer till the Exodus manage to adapt to the barrier : how much longer will humanity be safe behind there wall.”

“so Sam” said Eve “whats on your mind” “the barrier” Sam answered looking over at Eve.
“ah yeah : I am concerned about that too”

(27-4A
Frontier
briefing room 3)

Eve was standing in front of a large holo-projector with a starmap of the region just outside the frontier.

“Right” said Eve “the mission is here Exodus prime located here right in the heart of Exodus space : which is unfortunately located in the Exodus universe here.” Eve pointed at the region of space located just outside the barrier.

“well” said Ruby “at least it is close to our universe : so we will have the element of surprise”

“as I was saying” interrupted Eve as Sam’s hair turned a dark blue to better represent her nervousness regarding the mission ahead. “the mission is to deliver a computer virus codenamed “destiny” to the exodus mainframe : once connected the virus will completely eradicate the Exodus threat within the following hour.”

“so whats our backup” said Sam her hair returning to a dark green that was glowing slightly. “well” said Eve “there we have good news : this will be a Titan core / UUDF / Aurora : joint operation : so we will have the firepower to succeed : so lets get this done : dismissed”

the starmap dissipated and Eve walked back over to the group

“you all in” said Eve eagerly “hell yeah” said everyone in the room all at once.

(27-4A
Frontier
bridge)

“so Eve” said jack “you really think we have a chance” “yeah” said Eve “yeah I think were in with a chance.” “right said Ruby “unless anyone has anything to add : let’s get this show on the road.” “helm thrust to 100 percent” “navigation take us to the staging area” “well” said Sam “I am going to head to the zero g area of the ship get some sleep” “yeah” said jack turning to follow Sam off the bridge as he walked off he said “see you in a few hours” and with that he and Sam walked off the bridge and began to make light conversation with jack.

(27-4A
Frontier)

“right back to it then “said Sam “it’s what we do best” replied Jack “don’t you” started Sam looking back at jack “ever wish we had desk jobs” “yeah” said jack “still this is still one great adventure” “isn’t that the truth” replied Sam as they reached the gravimetric acceleration tube and stepped in. and almost instantly were traveling at 900.000 meters per second : and 45 seconds later they floated out into the zero g section of the 27-4A.

(27-4A
Frontier
zero g section)

“you looking forward to this then” said jack floating down the corridor to there room “I will when we get going” so the : short answer”said Sam “is yes” “so you don’t care about the danger” “no : I mean most people would : but it is what we do.” after floating down the corridor for five more minutes Sam and jack reached there room.

“right well I am going to get some rest before the fight” said Sam “I suggests you get some sleep as well : as this fight will take quite some energy.” “yeah” said Jack “i will do that”

(six hours later)

(27-4A
Combat information centre)

“right” said Ruby “ fleet- com 1 : all ships we are about to depart for Exodus prime : once we are past the barrier there will be hostile we must be ready to engage any threats : simply put the rules of engagement are as follows : clear to engage any and all Exodus no exceptions : if you see any Exodus ships they are to be destroyed : good luck all” the first officer of the 27-4A walks on to the bridge and begins speaking to Ruby.

“Commander 24-4A reports green light on all systems : ready for torsion.”

“jack you better get to sam's ship” said Ruby “as soon as the UUDF and Aurora fleets arrive we will proceed to Exodus prime.”

(Frontier
True Light
Bridge)

“right I am ready” said jack flicking multiple switches before starting up the holographic displays of the True light.

(Dark Fury
Frontier
Bridge)

“right Sam your running the computer warfare for this operation so your in the nanoframe to computer interface.” said Eve. “ok” said Sam lets get this going then” Eve then helped Sam lie down in the Biogel that lined the nanoframe to computer interface.

“Right this is still weird” said sam as her battleframe went offline and her armour brackets connected to sockets extending from the battleframe to computer interface before coming back online.

A holographic battle grid showing a readout of code appeared floating above the nanoframe to computer interface. Before Sam saw trillions of lines of code both flying around her and right in front of her eyes. But before she could focus on it went a near blinding blue and Sam was suddenly floating around with all the starships around her being displayed as wire-frame.

“right looks good from hear” said Sam. “alright” said Eve “this is Dark Fury we are ready for action” “roger Dark Fury” said Ruby “prepare for torsion” “roger that” said Eve.

A few tense minutes later both the Aurora and UUDF fleets had arrived and confirmed they were ready for the mission ahead.

(27-4A
Frontier
bridge)

“right today mission is” said Ruby on fleet-com 1 pausing for dramatic effect “to deliver a computer virus codenamed “destiny” to the Exodus mainframe located on Exodus prime. : all personnel taking part in this operation will each have a copy of this virus. : so if you get the chance deliver the virus. ; remember the more virus's we can get in the exodus mainframe the faster the Exodus will be destroyed. : however we only need one virus to be deployed to insure complete destruction of the Exodus within the hour of deployment.

Ruby turns off fleet- com 1

“right lets get this show on the road” helm torsion in 45 seconds” “roger that”

Ruby turns back on to fleet- com 1

“all ships torsion in 40 seconds” said Ruby “i am transmitting the torsion calculations now.” she said pushing a button on the side of her chair. “right Ruby said to her first officer “off fleet – com 1 : and prepare to jump.” “confirmed fleet – com 1 is off : going to torsion in 30 seconds.”

The fleet was an impressive sight it filled a cube with an area of 3 light billion cubed. Billions of starships were all in formation ready to go into torsion. The fleet was comprised of all 9 UUDF fleets as well as the Aurora’s 3 fleets and another 11 Titan Core. Each fleet containing hundreds of thousands of combat ready starships all fully armed for the fight ahead.

Then suddenly with a flash of purple light so large it could be seen all the way from Rock Military Installation. The fleet entered torsion.

chapter five target sighted

(27-4A
Exodus Prime
bridge)

with another huge flash of purple light the fleet arrived within 1 light billion of Exodus Prime.

The first officer looked at her tablet then looked back at Ruby. Then she said “now that’s quite the welcome party” what she said was the understatement of the century : the exodus fleet comprised of trillions of starships all aligning for the upcoming fight. The human fleet returned the gesture by aligning there ships with the exodus ships and then.

“alright” said ruby “the mission is a go : all ships clear to engage”

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

Sam could see the whole layout of the upcoming fight with billions of human starships starting to move towards the Exodus fleet. Which was in turn charging right at them. Sam however had one job to coordinate the computer systems of the whole human fleet and keep the Exodus from effecting the ship to ship computer communication with virus's and other computer based weaponry.

(27-4A
Exodus Prime
bridge)

The Battleyards had entered there 45 minute battle mode : trading shields and torsion for epic fire power. And as a result each of the Battleyards was paired small fleet of 100 support ships. To recharge their shields. As although some of the Battleyards had Acrpcrthum armour and were unaffected by shields being taken down : most had the Lightweight and fragile Lreaidium armour which wasn't capable of tanking much damage and as a result needed to keep their shields up or take massive damage.

"we are in firing range of the exodus fleet" said the first officer "the fleet will open fire after our first shot" "right" said Ruby lying back in her command chair "open fire" "roger that" said the first officer.

In a ship to ship fight the action usually takes place at range. This fight was no different. After the human fleet had opened fire the hail of resulting rounds and lasers took 57 seconds to reach the halfway point. During which the exodus had detached there sentry attack drones which began to move towards the human fleet looking like a huge cloud of metal. As they past the halfway point half were destroyed by the human fleets hail of weapons fire.

"Contact" said Ruby "keep firing"

The space fight was quite the epic sight trillions of ships all engaging each other at standoff ranges.

Suddenly a huge Exodus weapon impacted the 27-4A's Lreaidium armour causing massive structural damage and an explosive decompression on deck 3.

"warning atmospheric decompression deck 3" said the 27-4A's AI "damage tank is now : negative" "dreadnoughts will be in range for ion cannons In 14 seconds" said Ruby's tactical officer. "right primary will be EVX-2 hypercaptial" said Ruby "confirmed" said the tactical officer "primeing EVX-2 heavy battlecruiser"

As the human fleet got closer more and more of their starships moved into their vertical configuration and began firing their weapons at the Exodus fleet.

"dreadnoughts are in ion cannon range" said Ruby's tactical officer. "right" said Ruby.

One of the Exodus ships the EVX-2 heavy battlecruiser was gliding through space when suddenly it was vaporised by the combined firepower 3 billion of heavy Ion cannons. Be the beams didn't stop there they continued to destroy or damage many hundreds of Exodus starships directly behind the EVX-2.

The 27-4A's tactical officer turned around and said "kill confirmed on EVX-2" "well" said Ruby "we are in range for our Ion cannons so keep shooting"

The fleets were getting ever closer together and as a result more and more shots were connecting with their targets. Just then another Exodus plasma round hit the 27-4A's hull at steep angle. This time going through both the ships Lreadium armour and penetrating 27 decks into the ship.

"Warning atmospheric decompression deck 1 through 27" said the 27-4A's AI "recommend disengage from the battle" "right we are taking a lot of damage" said ruby. "solidify the shields" "confirmed" engineering said over the comms "overcharging solidifiers : solidifiers running at 300%"

As the battle entered its melee phase the carriers in the human fleet began to launch fighters and corvettes to deal with the large quantity of Exodus sentry attack drones. With EMP frigates being used to disrupt the Exodus ships computer communication.

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

Sam's overview began to be swamped with targets. There were too many targets to track so Sam began to thin the drone swarm with the fleets 3000 calibre chaingun turrets. And with a fire rate of 9 million rounds per second the drones were falling very fast. As she was doing this the computational power of her brain was reaching its limit. 90% percent of her available processing power was being used up by the fleet's computer communication.

(27-4A
Exodus Prime
bridge)

the first officer gives Ruby a message from Sam it reads ////1319849810: 90% of my processing power has been used up : we need to end this fight before I reach 100%
"Right" said Ruby "lets finish this : overdrive main engines "confirmed overdriving " said the officer on the engineering console.

Then suddenly an Exodus frigate came out of torsion right next to the December and fired 1000 heavy fusion missiles at point blank range. The December instantly deployed its countermeasures. A cloud of electromagnetically charged Acrperthum fragments shot out of the side of the December and collided with the missiles destroying them in the process.

Seconds later a beam from one of the December's heavy ion cannons connected with the frigate. The frigate managed to tank the damage for about 2 seconds before its armour failed and the ship exploded.

Sam appeared above the AI holo-tank ,her avatar floating a few centimetres the top of the tank and said "90 seconds from orbit around exodus prime" "thanks said Ruby "keep on those Exodus ships : we just need to keep them off the fleet until the Battleyards come out of Battle mode in 39 minutes." "units entering the battlespace" said Ruby's tactical officer as an exodus reinforcement fleet came out of torsion. "I got to go" said Sam her avatar flickering off"

(Exodus Prime
True Light
Bridge)

Sam appeared in front of the captain's chair on the bridge of the "True Light" her avatar standing up perfectly straight and said "how you holding up" "fine" said Jack "armour is at 97% and I am about halfway through the available load out of missiles." "ok" said Sam "I will rep you armour back to 100% : fly safe :were almost there."

The next 50 seconds went normally and resulted in the destruction of 60,000 Exodus ships compared with only 4000 human ships. Then suddenly "True Light" got called primary. The result was all the Exodus fleet began shooting "True Light"

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

In a split second the tank of "True Light" broke Sam watched with horror as its armour went from 97% to 42% then to 31%. A split second later she acted. First she locked on to Jack's signal then she vaporised him straight to the bridge of Dark Fury where he landed hard on the floor completely unconscious.

Sam then sent a broadcast to the human fleet informing them of the destruction of true light.

Eve jumped out of the captain's chair of Dark Fury and ran over to Jack crouched down next to him and said "you all right" after waiting a few seconds and still seeing no response from Jack she picked him up and carried him off the bridge and into her private quarters just off to one side of the bridge.

(27-4A
Exodus Prime
bridge)

"Ruby" said the tactical officer "True Light has been destroyed: no casualties" "acknowledged" said ruby "I also want all groundside fire teams ready for deployment as soon as we have obtained geostationary orbit on the drop zone. The tactical officer turned around and said "roger that"

The human fleet was getting seriously close to Exodus Prime now. The fleet was so close you could see the start of planet's atmosphere.

"there she is" said Ruby "looking at the bridge's primary viewscreen "Exodus Prime" just then the AI of the 27-4A said "all personnel prepare for groundside operation in 10 minutes."

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

"Right" said Eve "your jobs done: let's get to the surface." Ok said Sam as human fleet rippled in front of her before shattering into millions of shards of crystal and then after seeing trillions of lines of code right in front and all around her then she was back on the bridge of Dark Fury. Her Battleframe proceeded to go offline and then disconnected her armour brackets from the Battleframe to computer interface before coming back online.

Eve then helped her out of the Battleframe to computer. And as she did Biogel ran down off her and started flowing back into the Battleframe to computer interface. “well” said Eve “you make one great computer.” “ah genetic computers” said Sam “you got to love em” “you I do” replied Eve. “Eve” said Sam “I am going out with Jack remember” “anyway” said Sam on her way off the bridge : you look after Jack for me or it will be you I will be shooting rather than the Exodus.” And with that Sam sprinted of the bridge and took a gravimetric acceleration tube to one of Dark Fury’s Drop Pod bay’s.

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
Battlesuit Drop Pod Bay 73)

“you ever piloted one of these before” said an technician jumping down from the top of one of the Battlesuit’s he was repairing. “yeah” said Sam “I have used them in the past : don’t worry I can still do it” “ok then “said the technician “what weapons are you looking for.” “Plasma Thrower on left arm Singularity Repeater on the right arm” said Sam looking around the Drop Pod bay. “right let me check for that configuration” said the technician “ah here we go : x 62 z 14 right follow me” they walked for about a minute before turning right down a smaller corridor and upon reaching the BattleSuit Sam climbed into the open cockpit and closed the window down over it. “right” said the technician “good luck” and he was gone. Sam began to get the BattleSuit ready for deployment. First she started up its power systems, checked weapons then fired up the on-board AI. The AI appeared above its projection plate to the right hand side of the cockpit and began to speak.

“Aurora Samantha Charles Eden : authentication accepted : establishing connection to Battlenet :connection established : commencing pre-launch”

Command systems	Ok
Power systems	Ok
Weapon left (Plasma Thrower)	Ok
Weapon right (Singularity Repeater)	Ok
Locomotion systems	Ok

“pre-launch complete : launching”

Weapon left trigger (Plasma Thrower)	Ok
Weapon right trigger (Singularity Repeater)	Ok
Combat HUD	Ok
Targeting systems	Ok

“all systems : ready” “right” said Sam “now we wait”

Sam didn’t have to wait much longer as within 30 seconds they were in position above the drop zone. “green light on Drop teams” said sapphire over the intercom. Sam’s insides lurched as the Drop Pod was fired out of Dark Fury with a series of magnets. She was now in free-fall and outside the artificial gravity of the Dark Fury. on the HUD in her cockpit there was a live feed from outside the Pod. On this feed she could see that most of the starships had deployed ground teams all of them shooting quickly down in Drop Pods. The sight was incredible billions of Drop Pods were falling towards the surface of Exodus Prime. The morning light just coming over the horizon and reflecting off the falling Drop Pods.

“err this is your captain speaking” said Cray over the comms channel. “we are approximately 45 seconds from touchdown so please stow all tables : open all windows : and prepare to kick some serious Exodus ass.” “same old Cray” said Sam back over the comms “always can produce a good laugh.”

Chapter six groundside

(Drop Pod
Exodus Prime low orbit
Battlesuit “Dark Fury x 62 z 14”)

“contact in 5 seconds” Cray said over the comms.

The Drop Pods fired their main thrusters to slow there decent before slamming into the ground with such force that the ground beneath them sunk down by almost a whole meter. Huge cracks were around all of the Drop Pod’s due to the impacts of landing. Seconds later the Drop Pod’s sides were flung off by powerful electromagnets.

Sam felt both jolt both the impact one as well as the sides being blown off.

“targeting system : green light : all systems ready for engagement” the on board AI said as it manoeuvred out of the remains of the Drop Pod. “Drop Pod Clear : green light on mission”

(27-4A
Exodus Prime
bridge)

“ruby” said the first officer bringing up a tactical screen on her tablet “Samantha Charles Eden is groundside and proceeding to the objective.” “ok” said Ruby ”once she has disabled the anti starship cannons we can send in the gunships to deliver the main virus to the Exodus mainframe” “roger that” said Ruby’s first officer.

(Battlesuit “Dark Fury x 62 z 14”
Exodus Prime)

Sam was walking down the Exodus road along with the other human troops. Then on the Battlesuit’s HUD a new objective appeared “disable or destroy ASSC weapons around primary mission site” “alright” sad Sam over comms “command says destroy all ASSC weaponry in the local area.” with that the groundside fire teams began to brake formation and proceed to the ASSC cannons that were to be destroyed.

Sam followed her objective marker which said she was only 300 meters from the first ASSC cannon. After a minute the air started to become full of the sounds of war , all kinds of weapon systems were being fired in the local area. Everything from plasma throwers to heavy singularity cannons and ,ION rifles.

Soon after she got contact and the Battlesuit’s AI sprung to life and locked up the target. “warning hostile contact : target locked “ with that Sam pulled the trigger on her left weapon to fire her Plasma Thrower to overheat the Exodus tanks shields. after a few seconds its shields were offline. And she let go of the left trigger. And pulled the trigger on her right joystick the Battlesuit responded instantly sending 9 rounds a second straight at the target out of the Singularity Repeater. Each hit did a huge amount of damage to the tanks armour with each hit smashing through the tanks armour before detonating into a small singularity pulling the fractured armour into it.

“target armour destroyed : switch to impact rounds” Sam switched to impact rounds and once the impact rounds started hitting the tank its structural integrity fell quickly and a few seconds later the tank exploded.. Sam then switched back to the regular Singularity Repeater ammo and continued on towards the ASSC weapon emplacement.

(December
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

“Tank is holding” said the tactical officer looking at the damage coming in. “good” said Sapphire
“maintain armour integrity” “roger” said the tactical office.

The December's Acrpcerthum armour was having to tank the combined fire power of 26 Exodus destroyers , 4 carriers and 12 frigates. The tank was holding but only just. The sight was however spectacular with hundreds of rounds a second hitting the December and 95% of them bouncing off its armour. And the rounds which did get through did no real damage as any damage sustained was immediately repaired by the September who was providing armour repairs remotely using nano repair beams.

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

Jack came around only to find he was still on Dark Fury. So he started to walk out Eve's private quarters and on to the bridge. But paused at the doorway and leaned against the doorframe. Eve noticed him walked over and began to help him onto the bridge. “so how are you feeling ” said Eve as she walked backed to her command chair holding up Jack by the waist as she went. “terrible” said Jack as Eve deposited him into the first officers chair located to the left of the command chair. “why” asked Eve. “rubbish vaporise I reckon” said Jack. ”I wouldn't worry said Eve “the affects from the vaporise will wear off in a few minutes: then you can join Sam groundside” “I would rather not” said Jack. “ok then” said Eve “you can stay here with me”

(October
Exodus Prime
Combat information centre)

Nova was flying the October a shield tanking support ship that was carrying gunships for use during the groundside operations on Exodus Prime.

“this is the titan core Starship October we are in orbit and are ready to support groundside operations”

(Drop Pod
Exodus Prime low orbit
Battlesuit “Dark Fury x 62 z 14”)

“attention” said the Battlesuits on board AI “the October is ready to provide air support once the ASSC cannons are offline” Sam nodded and turned around the corner only to find an Exodus defender. A gunship 3000 meters long 1500 meters wide and 1000 meters tall.

“this is Samantha Charles Eden request orbital strike : on Exodus defender 500 meters north of my position.”

“this is sapphire ethereal of the Titan Core December : heavy ION cannon firing”

Seconds later the sky was filled with bright blue light as 50 beams from the Decembers Heavy ION cannons impacted the Exodus defender. The defender tanked it for a full 15 seconds before finally getting vaporised.

“good shot” replied Sam as she began to move towards the ASSC cannon.

But suddenly the ASSC cannon turned and pointed down at Sam’s Battlesuits. She ejected right before it exploded. Sam flew through the air for all of 3 seconds before hitting the ground running straight at the ASSC. She grabbed 2 Acrperthum sticks off the waist of her Nanoframe extended her arms and pushed in the bottoms of the sticks. The sticks sprung to life generating 2 pickaxe heads made of pure energy. Exodus infantry began to close in from all sides firing at Sam as they came closing in. finally one was in melee range she rammed her right Pickaxe into the head of the Exodus infantry unit. It exploded spraying its biomechanical parts over the floor. Sam then got both Pickaxes and slammed them into an exodus infantry unit to her left. It too exploded as she ran past. Sam’s leg brackets glow bright purple and she jumps right towards the ASSC cannon.

As she reaches the peak of her jump she throws both energy pickaxes into the barrel of the ASSC cannon.as she hits the ground Sam goes into a forward roll and comes out with her main weapon an assault chain gun with ornate engravings and the inscription ”finite patience infinite firepower.” Pointing straight ahead. right as the cannon explodes throwing debris all over the surrounding area.

Sam opens comms to command and says “ASSC cannon destroyed : October is clear for gunship deployment” a few seconds late a reply comes back from the October “gunships are headed groundside : 57 seconds to landing.” “Confirmed” said Sam.

(Dagger one one
Exodus prime
cockpit)

“sir we have entered the atmosphere and are proceeding to objective with “destiny” and are in route to the exodus mainframe.” “good” said Nova over the comms “good luck”

“sir” said the officer “3000 Exodus drones are heading right for us” “roger that” said the gunships captain ”brake formation and engage” the gunships broke formation some began to engage the exodus drones in a high speed dogfight. While the other group stayed with Dagger one one to support its approach to the spire.

The comms crackled into life “groundside Battlesuit teams : report all ASSC cannons destroyed : clear for final approach”

(27-4A
Exodus Prime
bridge)

“ruby” said the tactical officer “Samantha Charles Eden is 30 seconds from the objective” “then” said Ruby “the day is almost won”

(Samantha Charles Eden
Exodus Prime)

Sam continued to sprint towards the spire that was the objective. Interestingly it was one of the spires she had fought through 2 years prior to this battle. She finally reached the spire ,turned on the electromagnets in her armors boots and began to run vertically up the spire at speeds approaching 300 meters per second.

When she reached the top Dagger one one was hovering about a metre over the ledge of the spire. The captain got out and handed over the container that contained the biomechanical virus “destiny” “good luck” said the captain and jumped back onto the gunship.

“this is Samantha Charles Eden to Dark Fury I have the package and I am proceeding towards the objective”

“roger that” said Eve over the comms “be careful were not done yet”

(UUDF November
Bridge)

“you got to admit” said Katia looking out the window at the battle “she is good” “yeah” said villiam “yeah she is.” “oh come on” said Gordon “I am far cooler” “er no” said Katia crossing her arms “you’re not”

The November was holding exodus off at sand off range , keeping the exodus reinforcements from getting into orbit.

(December
Exodus Prime
Bridge)

“sapphire : Samantha Charles Eden has the package and is in route to deploy it” said the communications officer pushing various screens in front of him.

(Samantha Charles Eden
Exodus Prime
Mainframe approach)

There she is thought Sam seeing a large pillar rising about a meter out of the ground in the middle of the room. But as she got closer the walls reconfigured and millions of near microscopic Exodus units began to swarm her. She pulled the trigger on her assault chain gun. Instantly she could feel the recoil of the weapon against her armour. The swarm attacked her armour sending shards of Acrpcrthum falling onto the floor. Her assault chain gun however was shredding through the swarm. Equipped with incendiary rounds with an explosive core the swarm didn’t stand much of a chance. As bust after bust of fire cut the swarm right out of the air.

Finally after several long minutes Sam neared the pillar. She began to run straight at it, jumped through the air and smashed the container containing “destiny” into the pillar. And painfully bounced off and fell onto the floor. The container broke open and the virus began to interface with the Exodus technology. It was flawless and within 30 seconds the pillar was covered in the goo from the “destiny” virus. It proceeded to flow down the pillar and across the floor flowing over the injured Sam as it went. After the virus reached the wall of the chamber it deployed. Sending billions of billions of lines of code throughout Exodus space. Slowly Exodus technology began to fail and go offline. This was a good thing as the human fleet couldn’t tank the amount of damage put out of Exodus ships for ever.

Sam however was having problems : due to her being captured by the Exodus 3 years before hand. As a result the “destiny” virus was destroying all Exodus technology inside of her, removing all augmentations put in by the Exodus. As well as her Nanoframe as it too was based of Exodus technology. A few seconds later Jack had vaporised on to the surface of Exodus prime and was running over to her.

“Sam you alright” said Jack looking concerned. “yeah” said Sam “just about” “come on let’s get back to the Dark Fury.” Jack said picking up Sam before vaporising back to Dark Fury.

(Dark Fury
Exodus Prime
medical bay)

“yeah I thought this might happen” said one of the technicians. As Jack placed Sam down on one of beds. “basically” said the technician “your contact with the “destiny” virus caused your body to reject all your augmentations based on Exodus tech” “what about my Nanoswarm” asked Sam. “Should be fine” said the technician “as it’s based on our technology rather than the Exodus tech : its already fighting “destiny” and winning : give it a few minutes and you’ll be fine.”

The Exodus the pinnacle of synthetic evolution. An entity designed for one purpose. A purpose the humans only just about to discover.

Just the comms crackled into life and Ruby said “Samantha Charles Eden, Jack Eden ,sapphire ethereal ,Cray ,nova, report to the Combat information centre of the 27-4A immediately: this order is priority 1”

“that” said Sam “sounds important : let’s go” and within seconds Sam and Jack had vaporised.

(27-4A
Frontier
Combat information centre)

Instantly they arrived in the Combat information centre of the 27-4A

“ok” said Ruby “we have a problem ; the Decembers AI “Hydrojneiss” has decoded the Exodus code it’s amazing :on a level of complexity far above anything found in our own DNA and Nanoswarms put together ; but that’s not why we’re here. Ruby paused for dramatic effect before continuing. “Hydrojneiss show subroutine 000-1-1-1-1-5-79.852” another lifeform appeared on screen however this one was distinctly biological. “That” said Ruby “is species 18-447 : that is the scourge : the purpose of the Exodus was to keep this species trapped in the universes in the centre of the void : The Exodus were created to stop the scourge : by destroying the Exodus we leave only one race which is advanced enough to hold them off.” Ruby paused again “us”

“Ok” said Sam “ were in trouble” “so” said Cray “let’s get this straight : the Exodus were a weapon that was Designed” “yes said Hydrojneiss “designed to stop the Scourge” “then we better prepare” said Sapphire “let’s reverse engineer the Exodus technology located in Exodus Prime” “good idea” said Cray” “myself and Nova will move Exodus Prime to our universe for analysis and reverse engineering purposes.” “wait a second” said Ruby “part of that world is rightfully part of the UUDF’s and Auroras property “don’t worry” said Cray “you will get your share of the tech : after all we must stand as one against this new threat” “I will contact both our command centres myself when we get back into our universe notify them of this new information” said Sapphire” “right said Ruby ”when our Battleyards come out of battle mode : we go into torsion back to the frontier.”

“Right” said Eve “let’s get back to the Dark Fury: and I will drop you and Jack off : on my way to rock” “right” said Sam. Eve Sam and Jack vaporised back to the bridge of “dark Fury” “right” said Eve “lets go” “roger” said the tactical officer “set course for rock military via Tri circle.” and with that the carrier “Dark Fury” entered torsion.

Chapter Seven home

(Tri circle
Ventura
cravon’s nebular
aura
jack and sam apartment’s docking port)

a few hours later “dark Fury” arrived in the Ventura star system the stars snapping into view on the the bridge’s primary viewport as the ship came out of torsion. Sam and jack were already at the docking port with Eve ready to say goodbye.

“this war is not over” said Eve “ your services may be needed once again”
“nothing ever changes” said Sam. “is that so” said Eve looking puzzled”
“well said jack “once more into the breach” “well bye for now” said Eve “I will contact you when I need you both again” “don’t worry” said Sam “we’ll be ready” Eve turned around to leave “and Eve
“said Sam“ “what” said Eve turning back around “fly safe” said Sam “always” said Eve “you have a nice girlfriend Jack : something worth fighting for : well until our paths cross again : bye”
“bye “said Sam followed a few seconds later by Jack. And with that Eve was gone.

“hey Jack “said Sam “I just realised I have no ship to get to work” “not true” said Jack “there’s still the vaporiser on you old wrist computer” “oh yeah” said Sam “well its settled then I will use my old wrist computer to get to work : and we can eat some Onion soup now to solve my current hunger issue” “same old Sam” said Jack giving her a hug “only eats Onion soup” “it’s not the only food I eat” said Sam jokingly “I also eat trace oxygen particles”

And with that Sam and Jack headed back into their apartment. Knowing that they would be called upon at some time in the near future to fight the Scourge. But they live life in the present. After all they live in dangerous times. Where the future is uncertain and where the past is something that is best forgotten. For this is their story. And humanity’s future is decided by their actions.

THE END
