

CRUSADERS #9
SERENITY

Written by

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TEASER

EXT. OUTSIDE PETER'S HOUSE - ROCKWELL

DAVID leads XANDER and ZACK down the street, stopping in front of Peter's house.

ZACK

I can't believe we are finally going to be finished with this damn job.

XANDER

Yeah, but it is a bit of a let down after coming across all that money, huh?

David stands behind them, watching, not saying a word.

ZACK

Don't remind me. Besides, it's proolly for the best.

XANDER

The best? How you figure?

ZACK

I've met you. You have a tendency to lose money, and if you lost that much money, yeah, I'd have to kill you.

Xander lets out a laugh.

XANDER

Now that, that I would love to see.

ZACK

I can make that happen.

DAVID

Enough! I grow wary of the two of you, constantly bickering.

Zack and Xander exchange looks.

ZACK

Sorry.

XANDER

You need to relax, bossman. You'll live longer.

DAVID
Do you have the datachip?

Xander pulls it out.

XANDER
Would I go and forget it a second
time?

Zack snatches it out of his hand.

ZACK
You just might.

David stanches it from Zack.

DAVID
Enough, let us put this job at an
end.

He pushes past them to the gate, where he presses the buzzer.

DAVID (CONT'D)
This is David Silverman, I have a
delivery for Mr. Williams.

There was a moment of silence before the buzzer comes back to
life.

PETER (BUZZER)
I had lost hope of hearing from you
again.

The gate swings open, allowing them in.

PETER (BUZZER) (CONT'D)
Please, come in.

The buzzer goes silent.

David steps forward but Xander grabs his arm. David turns to
look at him.

XANDER
You not really going in there are
you?

DAVID
And why would I not? We have a job
to finish and I intend on finishing
it.

ZACK

I get that, believe me, I want to finish this job as much as the next guy, but this doesn't feel right.

DAVID

What makes you think that?

ZACK

I heard him! He wrote us off.

XANDER

Which can't be good for us.

DAVID

All the more reason for us to prove him wrong.

David pulls free of Xander.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I will finish this job alone if I have too, the two of you do as you will.

He heads down the path, Xander and Zack exchange a quick glance before Xander shrugs and follows after David, Zack follows reluctantly.

Xander catches up to David just as he stops in front of the large front door, he doesn't knock or move towards it in any way.

XANDER

You okay?

Startled, David spins on him.

DAVID

I am fine!

He takes the last few steps and knocks on the door. It opens at once, just as Zack makes his way to join his friends.

PETER stands in the doorway.

PETER

Please come in.

He motions for them to enter the house.

INT. PETER'S HOUSE

David, Xander and Zack enter the house, as Peter closes the door behind them.

PETER
We can speak in my study, follow me.

He walks past them, leading them to his

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - STUDY

A large room, with a nice collection of books and some comfortable looking chairs. No one sits.

XANDER
This is nice.

ZACK
Seriously.

XANDER
I always wanted a library.

ZACK
Why? You can't read.

XANDER
Will you shut up!

DAVID
Both of you shut up!

Peter watches their playful banter, not saying a word.

David pulls out the datachip and hands it to Peter.

DAVID (CONT'D)
We have the datachip you requested.

Peter looks at the datachip a moment before taking it from him.

PETER
And I'm to trust this is the real deal?

XANDER
What?

DAVID
What are you implying?

ZACK

I don't think he's implying anything, he just said it.

DAVID

I have never cheated a client!

PETER

Explain what happened to my man? Or why you arrived here and had to run off before returning.

XANDER

There were reasons.

DAVID

Xander!

(takes a deep breath)

There was a mishap with our ship. But I assure you, it has all been taken care of. We have completed the job without issue, and now all that awaits is payment.

PETER

Payment. Yes, let's discuss payment. I seem to be owed quite a bit from the ship and loss of men you cost me.

DAVID

I have no idea what you are talking about, but if this is how you conduct business, then there is nothing more for us to. . . ahhh!

Three men in suits seize David, Zack and Xander. They all let out screams as they fall to the ground.

PETER

Take them down below. I have much to discuss with them.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. HIDEAWAY - NEW HAVEN - SERENITY

A small seedy bar, with low lights and an unsavory crowd.

Near the back ERICA sits with JAMES and PHOEBE.

JAMES

You sure this is the place?

ERICA

For the millionth time, yes I'm
sure!

Her eyes scanned the bar as she spoke. She was looking for someone, that much was for sure.

PHOEBE

I just don't understand why we came
here first. Why didn't we just go
get the weapons and money? I mean
what if this connection of yours
wants to see it immediately.

ERICA

It's not going anywhere. It's all
hidden where no one will ever think
to look for it. Besides, I don't
know about you, but I don't fancy
flying through space with a ship
full of weapons. We need a base of
operations, in which to store them.
A transport ship, a small one at
that, is not the place. Now will
you both shut up and let me. . .
Finally!

She gets to her feet.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Max!

An older man with graying hair looks over in their direction. He carries himself with a quiet dignity that comes with a life time of training and service. Just by looking at him you could tell he is a man of action, fearless in his choices, yet as he walks towards Erica and the others he seems uneasy, almost nervous.

MAX

Erica, sweetheart, how are you?

He asked as he embraced her in a hug.

ERICA

It's so good to see you!

Her voice trembled, ever so slightly.

Max pulled away, looking her over as if to take in just how much she has grown.

MAX

Same! Look at you, all grown up.
Last time I saw you, you were but a
child.

ERICA

That was a long time ago. Please
have a seat.

She motioned to the booth, where James and Phoebe sat,
watching the reunion.

MAX

Thank you, and who are your
friends?

JAMES

I'm James, this is Phoebe.

PHOEBE

Hi.

MAX

It's an honor to meet you both. Any
friends of Erica.

Erica takes a seat next to Max.

MAX (CONT'D)

(looks to Erica)

I take it these are friends from
home?

ERICA

New friends, but they recently
moved into the neighborhood.

MAX

Always glad to have new neighbors.

He glanced around the room as he spoke, as if he was waiting
for something.

PHOEBE
Neighborhood? What are you talking?

JAMES
Code, they are speaking in code.

PHOEBE
Oh, okay. I just, there's no one around. Why do we need codes?

MAX
Old habits, besides, I needed to know if I could speak freely, but I will dispense with it if it would please the lady.

PHOEBE
It's fine.

MAX
(turns to Erica)
What brings you here Erica? Last I spoke with the general he wanted radio silence. At least until the new HQ was set up. Sending the Archangel to Serenity ruins any chance of subtlety in my operations.

He said, his eyes continuing to scan the room. His every movement showing a man on edge.

ERICA
My father is dead.

James and Phoebe exchange a glance and James pulls Phoebe into an embrace.

Max's face falls, for the first time he stops scanning the room, his eyes locking onto Erica's.

MAX
I misheard, surly, I misheard.

ERICA
(shakes her head)
You didn't. The League came in force. I got there just in time to see the whole world burn. There is nothing left.

MAX
Nothing? Did. . .did anyone escape?

ERICA

Not that I know of. I held my father's remains in my hands. The League had no mercy.

JAMES

Do they ever?

MAX

What of the fleet?

ERICA

Gone.

MAX

So the Archangel is all we have left.

ERICA

Gone with the rest of the fleet. I'm all that's left. Well, that and the forces you have put together here!

MAX

(quiet)

You shouldn't have come Erica.

ERICA

What? Why not?

Max gets to his feet.

MAX

Please, leave this world and never come back.

Erica grabs his arm.

ERICA

Max, what's wrong?

He pulls free.

MAX

You need to leave! Now!

ERICA

Why?

Phoebe holds onto James as he puts it together.

JAMES

There is no new army here.

ERICA
(to James)
What?
(back to Max)
What is he talking about?

MAX
Just go Erica, forget you ever. . .

ZOOM

Fighter jets can be heard flying overhead.

MAX (CONT'D)
It's too late! Get down!

He rushes forward, pushing Erica to the ground.

EXT. HIDEAWAY - NEW HAVEN - SERENITY

The fighter jets fly by, dropping bombs.

Explosions bring the Hideaway down.

INT. DUNGEON - PETER'S HOUSE - ROCKWELL

Xander, Zack and David are chained up at their hands, with a collar around their necks, in a dark room made of stone, with a row of bars locking them in.

XANDER
So, uh, when we took this job, did anyone have any idea this dude had a literal fucking dungeon in his basement?

Zack hits his head against the wall in annoyance.

DAVID
He can not hope to keep us down here indefinitely.

ZACK
Oh he can't? Are you going to tell him that? Because I'm not real sure if he knows that or not!

DAVID
Now is not the time to lose our heads!

XANDER

Does that part come next? Because I'm really not good with that.

PETER (O.S.)

Perhaps you should have thought of that before crossing me.

They turn to look as Peter walks up to the bars from the darkness.

XANDER

Cross you? Who us? Never man. We love you!

PETER

(laughs)

Is this where you beg? Pledge your loyalty to me?

DAVID

No! This is where I demand an explanation! We completed the job you gave us, and instead of paying us our due, you chain us down here. Explain yourself!

Peter presses a switch on a tiny device in his hand, shocking all three men.

PETER

You have it backwards, you are the ones who will explain.

ZACK

Explain what?

Once more Peter presses the button and they are shocked.

XANDER

Can you pleas. . . .

They are shocked a third time.

PETER

Are you quite done?

XANDER

I am.

Zack nods.

DAVID

What. . .what do you want to know?

PETER
Where is my chip?

ZACK
We gave it to you!

They are shocked again.

PETER
You gave me a blank copy! On top of
that, my men have never reported
back. I want answers,

He shocks them again.

PETER (CONT'D)
And I want them now!

DAVID
I. . .I

He shocks them again.

XANDER
Can you just stop!

He shocks them again.

David passes out, Zack and Xander do not look well.

PETER
(chuckles)
I guess he couldn't handle it.
Think it over. Next time I won't
toy with you. Refuse to answer and
the costs will be dire.

He turns and storms out of the room.

XANDER
Fuck, what are we going to do?

ZACK
I have no idea, but I want to know
is, what happened to the chip?

EXT. RUINS OF THE BAR - SERENITY

The bar is in complete ruin, slowly some of the wood gets
pushed aside as James starts to dig his way out. He is beaten
up and bloody. His clothes torn. He looks around for any sign
of Phoebe and sees none.

JAMES

Phoebe!

He starts to dig through the rubble around him, in a panic. After a few moments he finds Phoebe, she is out cold, bleeding from the head. He finishes digging her out and holds her tight.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Please wake up.

She coughs and opens her eyes.

PHOEBE

James?

JAMES

Oh thank god!

He kisses her on the forehead and hugs her tightly.

ERICA (O.S.)

What did you do?

James and Phoebe look over to find a bloody Erica confronting a beat up Max. Neither one of them came out of the collapse all that well, but they seem to be acting like it never happened.

MAX

I did what I had to.

ERICA

What you had to? You had to betray my father? He was like a brother to you! You came up together, how could you?

MAX

As I said, I did what I had to. I don't expect you to understand, nor will I stand here and explain myself to you. My record in the war speaks for itself. I will not be questioned by a child. I only came here to warn you, don't over step Erica.

JAMES (O.S.)

AHHHH

James runs and tackles Max to the ground, he starts hitting him in the face.

JAMES (CONT'D)
You did this! This is all your
fault!

PHOEBE
James! Stop! Please!

Phoebe gets to her feet, it is not easy for her.

Nearby a ground of five other people who survived the bar
collapsing. At the screaming they turn to look.

Erica pulls James off of Max.

ERICA
Easy big fella.

James pulls free.

JAMES
Let go of me.

Erica trips him and knocks him on his ass.

ERICA
Than stop.

She holds out her hand to help Max up, but he ignores it, and
gets up himself.

MAX
Save your pity Erica.

WESLEY (O.S.)
Did I hear that right?

The five other survivors walked over to them, three men and
two women. The man in the lead, WESLEY, is the one who spoke.
He was about 6 feet, with a grizzled 5 o'clock shadow. Dirty
blonde hair.

HUSSAIN
I'm pretty sure we did.

The man stood to the right of Wesley. He was fit, with a hard
look in his eyes.

WESLEY
That's what I thought. Care to
explain Max?

Max looked over towards them.

MAX

I do not. Now are we going to stand here and bicker or are we going to get the hell out of here!

The woman standing next to Wesley, with bright red hair spoke next.

JANE

We ain't going anywhere till you explain what the fuck happened here Max!

WESLEY

You heard the woman.

ERICA

Let's all just take a deep breath.

JAMES

Why should we? He set us up!

ERICA

(through gritted teeth)

Enough!

(towards Wesley)

I'm Erica Valdez, we don't have time for this. Whoever attacked us will be back.

No sooner were the words out of her mouth than more bombs dropped, destroying the buildings close by.

Everyone dived for cover.

PHOEBE

James!

Phoebe crawled her way over to James and hugged him tight.

HUSSAIN

Where the hell did Max go?

They all looked around, sure enough Max was nowhere to be seen.

ERICA

What are you doing Max?

James gets to his feet, helping Phoebe to hers as well. The others have already gotten up.

HUSSAIN

Selling us out again.

WESLEY

To think I trusted that old timer.

JANE

He fooled us. What can we do?

PHOEBE

Whatever we do, now is not the time to discuss this. We need to get out of here.

HUSSAIN

She's not wrong.

JAMES

Erica, we need to go.

Erica looks at James and then at Wesley.

ERICA

Any idea where we can lay low?

Wesley nods.

WESLEY

I have a place.

INT. DUNGEON - PETER'S HOUSE - ROCKWELL

POV DAVID

The screen is black, then blurry and slowly comes into focus.

RETURN TO SCENE

David lifts his head, looking around.

DAVID

What is going on?

Xander finishes picking his lock.

XANDER

You passed out while our new friend was grilling us.

He picks the lock on the other handcuff.

ZACK

How you do that?

XANDER

Hey, I have skills!

DAVID
Good! Now hurry and free me.

Xander looks at him and nods, before walking past David and helping pick the locks on Zack's.

ZACK
Thanks!

DAVID
You can not leave me here!

XANDER
Relax!

Xander walks over to David and starts picking his lock.

XANDER (CONT'D)
No one is leaving you. You still owe us money. I just need someone capable to watch my back while I get you out of this.

DAVID
I am capable!

Zack starts looking for weak spots on the bars, he has no luck.

ZACK
Coulda fooled me.

DAVID
You forget yourself Zack. I would remind you that I am in charge here.

Xander finishes freeing David.

XANDER
Would you now? How's that working out for you?

Zack rams into the door, shoulder first, trying to knock it loose.

ZACK
Hey, Xander, help me with this.

Xander walks over to him.

XANDER
This is going to hurt, huh?

ZACK
Shut up and do it!

They both run and ram into the door, it doesn't so much as move.

ZACK (CONT'D)
Again!

They do it again, and again and again.

DAVID (O.S.)
Are the two of you finished?

They turn around to find David standing in front of an opening where the wall once was.

XANDER
What the hell is that?

ZACK
That wasn't there! Was it?

XANDER
No chance. I would have remembered a giant opening.

DAVID
I have been in chambers like this one before. They always have escape routes in them, in case the host is ever locked inside. It is only a matter of finding the right spot.

ZACK
So you do have a past.

XANDER
I wanna hear this story about you being locked up before. Captain David being all badass.

DAVID
Follow me.

He turns and starts walking down the pathway he found for them.

ZACK
I think you hit a nerve.

XANDER
Yeah, that's not real hard with him.

They follow after David.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FOREST - SERENITY - NIGHT

Two League soldiers walk through the forest, flashlights on the ends of their guns as they scan the forest for signs of anyone who escaped the initial attack.

Without warning two figures drop out of the trees, Erica and Wesley, landing on the backs of the soldiers and stabbing them before they could so much as scream. They land hard on the ground.

Wesley and Erica pick up the dropped guns.

WESLEY

That was easier than I thought.

Erica scanned the forest to make sure they were really alone.

ERICA

Almost too easy.

WESLEY

And that's a bad thing?

ERICA

I don't trust too easy.

WESLEY

Fair enough. Let's get back to the others. I don't want your friends freaking out if I don't get you back in time.

Erica laughs as Wesley starts back, she stops him.

ERICA

I have a proposal.

WESLEY

Yeah, I'm not much for commitment, but I'm down for a fling. If that's your thing.

ERICA

Cute, no I'm serious. You know Max, do you know why he was here?

WESLEY

Evidently to sell us out.

ERICA

Before that. The reason he came here, originally.

WESLEY

The resistance. He hit up every bar in town. Looking for anyone with beef with the League.

ERICA

Good, so you heard the pitch.

WESLEY

And I didn't take it. Nor did anyone else. We came to this world to escape the League, not fight it. If that's your battle, more power to you. Me? I just want to live my life.

ERICA

And you think the League will let you?

He lifts the gun, as if to show it off.

WESLEY

I think I'll make them.

ERICA

How's that been working out for you? They took an interest in your world, you think they will just let it go?

WESLEY

I'm not trying to go to war!

ERICA

War came to you! You don't have a choice anymore!

WESLEY

So what? I'm supposed to just leave this world, leave everything that I built for myself and join your army. Say yes sir? Nah, I'm good. I'll fight my own battle.

He turns and starts walking off again.

ERICA

There is no army.

He stops, but doesn't turn back.

ERICA (CONT'D)

They wiped us all out. I'm the only one left. Well, I suppose me and Max.

Wesley turns back to face her.

WESLEY

A whole lot of good he's going to do you. He sold us out to the League. Could have done the same to your people.

ERICA

The thought crossed my mind. I'm trying to rebuild. I need help.

WESLEY

Maybe we can help each other.

EXT. CAMP SITE

A few hastily thrown together tents and some worried looking men and women who seem to be on edge. Hussain tries to calm them down, while still keeping them working on fixing up the campsite.

Off to the side, Phoebe and James keep their own counsel.

PHOEBE

I don't know about all this. Are we sure we should be here?

JAMES

It's not like we have much of a choice. If the League is here, we aren't going to have much luck getting off world. Besides, Erica trusts them. We should too.

PHOEBE

We don't even know her! Not really.

JAMES

I know, but she's been through the same thing we have. She lost everything, everyone, same as us.

PHOEBE

I'm just scared, James.

He hugs her.

JAMES
I know. So am I!

He pulls back.

JAMES (CONT'D)
But I want to stop them. They can't
just kill people. Destroy people's
lives, without repercussions. We
have to do something.

WESLEY (O.S.)
And we will.

James and Phoebe turn to see Wesley and Erica walking back
into camp with a couple of bags.

PHOEBE
How?

WESLEY
We're going to hit the armory.
Steal as many weapons as we can and
chase the bastards off our world.

JAMES
Good plan, how the hell do you
propose we do that? That place is
going to be armed to the teeth.

WESLEY
No doubt.

PHOEBE
What are we going to do?

Erica opens up the bag she is holding, inside it there is a
League uniform.

ERICA
Go undercover.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN

David leads Xander and Zack further into the tunnel.

ZACK
How much farther?

DAVID
How should I know?

XANDER

You're the one who knew about this scenic route. Figured you'd know the ins and outs.

DAVID

I knew they would have an escape route. That in no way tells me where it leads or how long it takes to get through it. It is not as though I have been in this tunnel before.

XANDER

Are you sure? Isn't this your number one hang out spot?

ZACK

Xander.

XANDER

Yeah?

ZACK

Shut the fuck up. It's too damn hot to listen to you prattle on.

XANDER

Prattle on? Prattle on? This is A material man.

ZACK

It's really not.

DAVID

There is a clearing up ahead.

INT. CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

It's a large empty room that looks more like a hidden bunker. There were a series of monitors in front of a desk. Each screen showed a different part of the house. Peter was in his office.

There was a kitchen area near the back as well as what looked to be a bedroom and even a weapons locker. This place was set up to hide out for a while and retake the house if needed. On the other side of the room was a staircase that lead to a catwalk and a door.

On the catwalk were a series of men with guns aimed at them.

XANDER

Uh guys.

DAVID

Not now, we need to find a way out
of here.

Zack starts towards the kitchen.

ZACK

Food!

XANDER

Guys!

DAVID

Not now!

ZACK

Yeah, shut up Xander!

XANDER

Guys!

They both turn to look at Xander who just points upward to
the gunmen.

GUARD ONE

Don't move!

DAVID

What do we do now?

XANDER

You're in charge, you tell us!

GUARD ONE

I said don't move!

He motions for his men to start heading down the stairs.

Zack pulls out a gun from his sock.

ZACK

Run!

He fires at the guards on the stairs.

David and Xander run for cover, hiding behind the kitchen
counter.

GUARD ONE

Fire!

INT. ARMORY SHIP

The place is a massive cargo ship, packed full of weapons, with dozens of crates filled with even more weapons. There are about a dozen League soldiers scattered around the room, occupied with different tasks. Two of which are loading the back of a truck with the crates.

The door opens and four soldiers walk in. It's Wesley, Hussain, Erica and James.

JAMES
(whispers)
Wow.

HUSSAIN
(whispers)
There are enough weapons here to
turn the tide against these clowns.

WESLEY
(whispers)
We just have to figure out how to
get the weapons out of here.

Erica nods towards the truck.

ERICA
(whispers)
I say we let them do it for us.

WESLEY
(whispers/smiles)
I like the way you think.

On the other side of the armory two soldiers are lifting a heavy crate into the truck.

SOLDIER TWO
These damn crates are starting to
throw out my back.

SOLDIER ONE
This is the last one, so stop
bitching.

As soon as they turn around, they find Hussain and James standing there.

SOLDIER ONE (CONT'D)
Who are you?

HUSSAIN
We're here to relieve you.

SOLDIER ONE
On whose authority?

HUSSAIN
General Jones.

SOLDIER ONE
Who?

SOLDIER TWO
I've never heard of a General
Jones.

JAMES
He's above your pay grade.

SOLDIER TWO
Right.

SOLDIER ONE
Why don't we get this cleared away.
Hey Serg. . .

He moves to push passed them, to call his boss when Erica and Wesley come up behind the two men and choke them out. Quickly moving them down below the boxes and out of sight.

A sergeant at the desk turns to look at the sound of the commotion.

SEGEANT
What?

HUSSAIN
This one's ready to move out.

SEGEANT
Than get it out of here!

He goes back to his paperwork.

JAMES
(whispers)
That was close.

HUSSAIN
(whispers)
Not even. Come on.

They help Erica and Wesley move the unconscious guards into the back of the truck, they close the back, get in and drive off.

EXT. WOODS

The new base camp for Wesley and his followers is starting to look like a real base of operations. Phoebe is at a small fire with a young man who can't be more than 16. He is using the fire to cook food.

16 YEAR OLD
This is crazy right?

Phoebe just nods.

16 YEAR OLD (CONT'D)
I can't believe just how fast everything can change. How one second everything is fine, it's normal and the next. . .

PHOEBE
Your whole life is turned upside down.

He nods.

16 YEAR OLD
You from around here?

PHOEBE
No. I'm from another world they did this too. Only. . .worse. Much worse.

16 YEAR OLD
I'm sorry.

PHOEBE
So am I.

BOOM!

Explosions go off in the background. The people in the camp start to panic.

16 YEAR OLD
What was that?

PHOEBE
It sounded like. . .

Before she can finish talking there is another explosion, this time closer. One of the tents is hit with a missile and goes up, sending a shock wave, destroying some tents and incinerating others.

Phoebe is thrown forward. The 16 year old reaches out and helps her up.

16 YEAR OLD
Come on! We have to go!

She takes his hand and lets him lead her away from camp, towards a steep cliff that drops off. They turn and start running along the side, trying to find another way out of the camp.

Behind them the others are running in all directions, except for those that are already dead or too maimed to run.

From the distance, through the trees, fully armored League soldiers, armed with plasma rifles walk towards the camp. They start opening fire on anyone they see moving.

One of them stops, takes aim and fires. Hitting the 16 year old in the head. He goes down fast. Phoebe lets out a scream, as she pulls away from him, causing her to trip and fall down the hill.

The League soldier who shot the 16 year old makes his way towards where she fell, he looks down, just in time to see her get up and start running again. He fires a few shoots at her but misses.

In frustration he smashes his armored boot through the 16 year old's face.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PETER'S OFFICE

Peter sits at his desk, angry radiating off of him.

PETER
You won't get away with this
Reynolds!
(he holds up the black
disk)
Or do you forget what I know, and
what I can prove?

The line cuts off. Peter tosses the disk onto the desk.

PETER (CONT'D)
Fuck!

He gets to his feet and storms out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY

He almost runs into one of his servants.

SERVANT
Sorry sir!

For a second it seems like Peter is about to hit the servant before he regains himself.

PETER
Prep my ship.

SERVANT
Yes sir! Right away sir.

He runs off down the hall.

Peter takes a few seconds to calm down before following him down the hall.

EXT. FOREST - SERENITY

Phoebe stops and hides behind a rock formation. She tries to catch her breath. Tears are welling up in her eyes. Her shirt is torn across the shoulder. Blood staining it.

Not far behind her the League soldier who fired at her and a second soldier are walking passed.

LEAGUE SOLDIER

Stop.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 2

What?

He looks around, aiming his gun as if he must have missed something.

LEAGUE SOLDIER

Do you hear that?

Phoebe puts her hand over her mouth. Trying to keep herself from making any sounds.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 2

Hear what?

LEAGUE SOLDIER

Shut up! Listen.

Phoebe closes her eyes tightly, as if them being shut will keep them from hearing her.

About a half a mile ahead of them a branch could be heard breaking.

LEAGUE SOLDIER (CONT'D)

There!

The two League soldiers take off running, firing their blasters.

The second they are out of sight, Phoebe jumps up and runs back the way she came.

The League soldiers stop in front of a dead bunny they shot.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 2

Happy? You killed the bastard.

LEAGUE SOLDIER

Shut up! Let's keep looking.

EXT. CLIFF SIDE - ROCKWELL

A boulder starts to roll away from the side of the cliff as a tired and haggard looking Xander and Zack push it. David calmly walks out behind them.

XANDER

Freedom!

ZACK

Finally. Now lets get the fuck out of here.

DAVID

But not before we make Peter pay.

XANDER

We can do that later. Like when we have weapons or any kind of plan. Maybe not now, while he has an army at his beck and call and we are saddled with the likes of you.

DAVID

I resent that!

ZACK

As we resent you. Now can we please get the hell out of here?

DAVID

Fine. But this is not over, nor is this conversation.

I/E. TRUCK

Wesley drives, while Erica is in the passenger seat.

ERICA

So that's the deal.

WESLEY

A planetary base of operations in exchange for weapons and funding. I can make that work.

ERICA

Good, so as soon as you can get me and my friends off world, I'll bring back what you need to liberate this place.

WESLEY

The way I see it, there's only one way to make that happen.

ERICA

We need a League ship.

The truck drives into

EXT. CAMP SITE

Or what is left of it.

WESLEY
Exactly, luckily, between these
weapons and the men we have here .
. . What the fuck?

He jumps out of the truck, as Erica gets out of the other side. James and Hussain walk up from the back, guns in hand.

HUSSAIN
How did they find us?

ERICA
One guess.

WESLEY
Fuck!

James scans the ruins frantically.

JAMES
Phoebe? Phoebe!

WESLEY
Shut up!

ERICA
James, calm down.

He throws his gun down and runs through the camp calling out.

JAMES
Phoebe! Phoebe, please answer me!

WESLEY
If you don't shut him up, I will!

Erica bits back a reply before going after James. She stops him.

ERICA
James, look at me.
(she forces him to look at
her)
You have to stop screaming. Do you
understand me?

He just nods, clearly a broken man.

JAMES
Phoebe?

ERICA

I'm sorry.

She pulls him into a hug as League soldiers come out of the bushes, rifles armed at them.

WESLEY

Fuck!

HUSSAIN

I knew his yelling was going to screw us.

The League Commander points his rifle at Hussain.

LEAGUE COMMANDER

Drop the gun son.

Hussain takes aim.

HUSSAIN

Not likely!

The Commander smiles, lowering his rifle.

LEAGUE COMMANDER

You even think of moving your finger towards that trigger and it's all over for you and your friends. In case you haven't noticed, we have you surrounded.

WESLEY

I didn't think the League took prisoners.

LEAGUE COMMANDER

We don't, but I happen to know this isn't your only stronghold on world. The brass wants to retake this world, if it was up to me, I'd just nuke the damn place. But they want it, so I have to take it. That being the case, I have a one time offer, and a one time offer only.

WESLEY

Not interested.

LEAGUE COMMANDER

Maybe you aren't, but maybe your friends are.

He motions for Erica and James, who are in the middle of the camp.

ERICA

Just make your offer so we can decline and you can kill us already. I'm tired of your voice.

LEAGUE COMMANDER

(chuckles)

I'm sure. Whichever one of you, and only one of you, gives me the location of the second base, I'll let you walk out of here. Simple as that.

ERICA

Decline.

WESLEY

You heard the lady.

HUSSAIN

We done talking? Can I kill him now?

No sooner are the words out of his mouth when the commander is shot through the head, from behind.

The next few moments are chaos. Blaster fire starts from all sides. Erica tackles James to the ground. Wesley dives for cover, as Hussain crouches down and returns fire. Wesley scoops up James' dropped gun and starts firing as well.

From deeper in the woods more blaster fire goes off. The League troops start dropping like flies till the last one falls.

WESLEY

(gets up)

What the fuck is going on?

Hussain motions to the tree line.

HUSSAIN

Looks like we have some guardian angels.

Erica and James get to their feet.

ERICA

You have to be kidding me.

Max, armed with a blaster of his own walks out of the woods.

MAX
Seems you lot found yourselves some
trouble.

Hussain takes aim.

HUSSAIN
And it keeps on coming.

MAX
Put that down. I came to save you,
not kill you. Don't make me have
wasted a trip.

WESLEY
We never said we wanted your help.

MAX
Well it's a good thing I've never
been one to wait around on an
invitation.

ERICA
You sold us out.

MAX
Don't be a child Erica. I did what
I had to. Just as you would have
done, I have no doubt.

ERICA
I never. . .I would never.

WESLEY
What do you want?

MAX
I would hazard to guess the same as
you. To be rid of these intruders.
Unfortunately, there's something
that needs to be done first, and
I'll need all the help I can get.

HUSSAIN
And what's that?

MAX
I have to free my son.

EXT. CLIFF SIDE - ROCKWELL

David, Xander and Zack are making their way along the base of a cliff. They look beat after a long walk that has not been kind to them.

XANDER
How much farther?

DAVID
I have no way of knowing!

ZACK
How many more times are you going to ask that question!

XANDER
Okay, okay, I'm done. I just. . .
Well, I was wondering how much farther?

Zack picks up a rock from the ground and throws it at Xander, hitting him in the head.

XANDER (CONT'D)
Ouch! What the fuck was that for?

ZACK
Annoying me. Do it again.

DAVID
Stop it! Both of you!

XANDER
Fine, sorry I dared to ask.

The wall next to him is shot.

XANDER (CONT'D)
What the fuck Zack?

DAVID
What did I just say?

ZACK
That wasn't me, move!

Zack dives as more blaster fire starts. Xander and David dive for cover. From behind them half a dozen of Peter's guards are charging at them with weapons firing.

Zack crawls behind a rock formation and opens fire on the men charging at him.

Xander crawls up next to him and pulls out a blaster he stole from the command center, as David hides behind them.

XANDER
Think we can hold them off?

ZACK
Unless they bring in
reinforcements.

Behind the enemy lines we see a supply ship coming in for a landing.

XANDER
You had to jinx us.

EXT. NEW CAMP SITE - SERENITY

Erica and Max are standing just outside of camp, deep in conversation.

MAX
He was attempting to recruit from within League ranks. The idea was, if we could get some of their own to turn on them, it would give us vital intel.

ERICA
Only he got caught.

MAX
He got caught. At first I thought he was killed. Died a hero. My heart never ached so bad. The whole war. . .it all just seemed so pointless, so meaningless.

ERICA
It isn't. What they are doing to people. . .

MAX
Is horrible, but not worth the loss of a son. Nothing is worth that price.

ERICA
So when you found out he was alive.

MAX

I gave them what they wanted.
Location of our homeworld for
starters. I was sure that the
general. . .that your father could
hold them off.

ERICA

They weren't ready. Our world was a
secret.

MAX

Your father had plans in place for
everything. I never thought. . .I
didn't mean for. . .

ERICA

Doesn't change the fact that you
gave the League it's victory. Cost
us everything. Cost me everything.

MAX

A sin I can never wash away.

ERICA

And now you want my help to save
your son?

MAX

The two of you were tight as
thieves once.

ERICA

We were five.

MAX

Erica, for the love you once held
for me, please.

ERICA

Fine, but after this, you're dead
to me.

She walks off, leaving him alone with his shame.

EXT. CLIFF SIDE - SERENITY

Blaster fire fills the air as Xander and Zack take cover.
David still hides behind them.

ZACK

There's just too many of them.

DAVID
So what do we do?

ZACK
Nothing we can do. I'm almost out
of charge.

He looked at his blaster.

Xander looks up at the cliff next to them and smiles.

XANDER
Be ready to run.

DAVID
What?

Zack follows his gaze and then turns to look at the guards
that are closing in on them.

ZACK
You have one shot.

XANDER
All I need.

Zack nods, he pushes David to start moving.

ZACK
Run!

David, unsure of what is about to happen, does as he is told.

Xander jumps up, fires at the cliff side, turns and runs as
the cliff itself starts to fall. Crushing the spot they were
hiding in just moments before.

Not far off the three of them stop to catch their breaths.

DAVID
Do you believe that crushed them?

ZACK
Doubtful.

XANDER
At least not all of them, but it
bought us some time.

DAVID
To do what?

ZACK
Escape this rock.

XANDER

And let him skip out on paying us?
I think not.

ZACK

Are you out of your damn mind?
He'll kill us.

XANDER

He has all his men out here looking
for us. He would never expect us to
show back up at his house.

ZACK

Because it's suicide.

DAVID

We will get what is owed.

EXT. NEW CAMP SITE - SERENITY

Wesley stands in front of a large gathering of the men and women that Max put together. James, Erica and Hussain stand in front.

WESLEY

What we are about to do is
dangerous, but it is necessary. I
may not have known many of you
long, but if you signed up with
Max, it was to fight these
bastards. That's what I'm giving
you the chance to do. Take the
fight to them. Stop running and
hiding. Stop waiting for a moment
that may never come and go on the
offensive.

The crowds cheers. James shifts his feet, looking around.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

I believe in each and everyone of
you. Together we will drive these
monsters off our world.

The crowd cheers again.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

You all know what you need to do,
so get to it.

The crowd starts to disperse, all but for the main four.

HUSSAIN

You sure we can trust them? After all Max gathered them together and we saw how that went.

ERICA

He did what he had to.

HUSSAIN

Oh yeah, they took his son. That makes it alright to blow up my home. I forgot.

WESLEY

Hussain. That's not helping.

HUSSAIN

I'm just saying, he wasn't trustworthy, maybe the people he trained aren't either.

ERICA

We can trust them. I trust them.

HUSSAIN

Of course you do. You're on the first ship out of here. This whole mission is nuts. We can go after smaller targets and work our way up, but no, the outsider wants to go home.

ERICA

I have no home.

WESLEY

She has weapons. She can help us. If we want to win, we need her.

HUSSAIN

Fine. But if this all blows up in our faces and we die painful deaths, I told you so.

WESLEY

Noted.

HUSSAIN

And where the fuck did Max go? We aren't worried about that?

ERICA

He wanted our help to save his son. Instead I went off on him.

HUSSAIN
So he left? Just like that.

ERICA
Just like that.

HUSSAIN
To sell us out again?

ERICA
I don't know.

WESLEY
We have to prepare for that. In case he did. Look, we have a lot to do and not a lot of time to get it done. Let's get started.

James looks up for the first time.

JAMES
I'm not coming.

HUSSAIN
What?

ERICA
What do you mean you're not coming?

WESLEY
You won't get another chance to get off world.

JAMES
I'm aware, but I can't leave her.

HUSSAIN
She's dead. Just like everyone else.

JAMES
You don't know that!

HUSSAIN
You saw the base camp! She couldn't have survived.

ERICA
I'm sorry James, but he's right. Phoebe, she's gone.

JAMES
You don't know that. None of you do.

WESLEY

You'll be back this way with the weapons. While you're gone I'll have men looking for her, or her body. I can't promise anything, but I'll try and get you answers.

JAMES

I appreciate that, but I can't wait. I need to find her now. I wish you well on the mission. I guess this is where we part Erica.

WESLEY

That's not happening.

JAMES

What?

HUSSAIN

You aren't leaving.

JAMES

Why not?

HUSSAIN

We don't trust you.

JAMES

You don't trust me? What do you think I'm going to do? Sell you out like Max?

WESLEY

He could have been more tactful in how he said it, but the short answer is yes. That is what we are afraid of.

JAMES

I would never.

ERICA

You would if they had Phoebe.

James glares at her, but doesn't respond.

WESLEY

You need to resign yourself to the fact that this is happening. The sooner you accept it, the better off you'll be.

JAMES

Fine.

EXT. WOODS

Two League soldiers are making their way slowly, blasters at the ready, their eyes scanning for any sign of their target.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 3

Any sign of her?

LEAGUE SOLDIER 4

No. You think she got away?

LEAGUE SOLDIER 3

You want to be the one to tell the serge?

LEAGUE SOLDIER 4

Not on your life.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 3

So we keep looking.

We stop following them and watch them walk out of sight as Phoebe drops out of a tree. She looks like she has been through the ringer. Her hair is a mess, her clothes are torn and stained with blood. Her arms are cut up, but she is alive.

She runs back the way they came, only to run into more League soldiers. One of which spots her.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 5

There she is!

The other half a dozen troops all turn to face her.

PHOEBE

Fuck!

She takes off running back the way she can.

The sounds of armored men chasing after her behind her.

She risks a look back and runs headfirst into League soldier 3. Falling backwards.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 3

Look what we have here.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 4

How the hell did you get behind us?

They both have their blasters trained on her. She slowly starts to back up, but #3 grabs her by the arm and lifts her up.

BOOM!

An explosion goes off behind them, right where the rest of the League troops would have been coming from. The shockwave knocks them all forward. Phoebe wastes no time in trying to run, but #4 grabs her by the leg and pulls her back down as he and his friend get back to their feet.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 4 (CONT'D)
Where the hell do you think you're going?

#3 points his blaster at her.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 3
Let's just get this over wit. . .

A hole appears in his head and he goes down. #4 lets go of Phoebe swinging his blaster around.

LEAGUE SOLDIER 4
What the. . .

A hole goes through his head as well. Spraying blood all over Phoebe who lets out a scream, just as his body lands on top of her. She attempts to push the body off of her as someone emerges from the tree line. She knocks the body off of her, just as the figure is revealed to be Max.

MAX
You okay child?

PHOEBE
You?

MAX
Me.
(holds out his hand)
Come on, let's get you back to your friends.

She takes his hand.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. PETER'S OFFICE

Zack sits at Peter's desk, going through files. David stands nervously by the door, while Xander is looking behind paintings on the wall.

XANDER

Find it!

He takes an odd painting of Peter off the wall, revealing an old school safe.

ZACK

Great, now can you open it?

XANDER

Give me time.

David peeks out of the office door, looking both ways down the hall.

DAVID

I worry we may not have much time.

Xander starts listening to the safe as he turns the dial.

ZACK

There's nothing on here about us.

He gets up from the table, putting his hands in his pockets.

DAVID

You thought there would be?

ZACK

Yeah, he thinks we wiped the disk clean, killed his men and blew up his ship.

The safe opens.

XANDER

Not to mention, broke out of his prison, killed more men and well.

He stands aside so Zack and David can see inside. It's filled to the brim with money.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Stole a shit ton of money.

ZACK

Jackpot.

He rushes over and starts helping Xander empty the safe.

DAVID

Good, let us depart!

He holds the door open for his men, Zack stops before exiting, pulls his blaster, aims at the computer and fires. It goes up in puff of smoke.

XANDER

What did you do that for?

ZACK

Just in case.

EXT. SPACE PORT - SERENITY

All hell has broken loose. Resistance members are fighting it out with League soldiers. Bodies are dropping on both sides.

James ducks down behind a wall, sweat dripping down his face. He closes his eyes to catch his breath, a League soldier comes around the corner, his blaster rifle aimed right at his face.

James opens his eyes, he starts to panic, but before he can do anything he is spayed with blood. The League soldier falls to the ground, dead.

Erica jumps behind the wall, next James.

ERICA

You got to be more careful!

His eyes are filled with tears.

JAMES

I . . .I ca . . .can't.

ERICA

Breath.

JAMES

I . . .I . . .can't.

ERICA

Just breath. You need to calm down.

An explosion goes off behind them. James jumps, Erica grabs his shoulders, locking eyes with him.

ERICA (CONT'D)
It's going to be okay.

James starts crying.

JAMES
It's not. It can't be.

On the other side of the battlefield Hussain fires his blaster, killing a young League soldier. Two more started to close in on him. Hussain fired, his blaster was empty. He tossed it aside, pulled out a blade and tossed it before diving for cover, just as the two soldier's opened fire. One of them was stabbed through the eyes and falls back dead. His friend stops shooting and looks at his friend, clearly in shock. Angry, he turns back to start shooting again. Behind Hussain climbs atop a platform, dives off of it. Landing on the League soldier, knocking him to the ground and stabbing him with a second blade. He takes the fallen League's blaster rifle, than takes the others rifle as well.

Wesley and Jane are ducking behind cover, taking turns firing at the enemies.

JANE
How did they find us?

WESLEY
That's something I plan on finding out.

JANE
We're going to have a hard time getting your new friends off world.

WESLEY
I'm aware.

He comes up from cover, firing at the League soldiers, making a dash for cover closer to the enemy. Once he finds a place, he holds them off till Jane can join him.

An explosion goes off, causing the upper level to collapse. Erica pulls James out of the way as it comes down on the spot they were at moments ago.

ERICA
Snap out of it!

James nods, picking up his blaster. It's clear he still isn't all there.

HUSSAIN (O.S.)
Erica!

She turns to find Hussain standing in front of the Phoenix. A pile of bodies at his feet. Blood all over him.

ERICA

What the hell did you do?

She made her way over to the ship, half dragging James with her. Blaster fire going off in the back ground.

HUSSAIN

I cleared the way to your ship.

ERICA

This wasn't the plan! We were supposed to get a League ship.

HUSSAIN

In case you haven't noticed, shit kind of hit the fan. You want off world, this is your chance.

ERICA

How are we supposed to get out of orbit?

HUSSAIN

That's your problem. You figure it out.

JAMES

We can't leave.

ERICA

Oh, now you talk.

HUSSAIN

You're girlfriend's dead. You want to leave, this is your chance. There won't be another one.

JAMES

She isn't! You don't know that.

HUSSAIN

I know that. Every one dies, the sooner you accept that, the better off you'll be.

PHOEBE (O.S.)

James!

They all turn to find Phoebe, Max and a few dozen armed men storming the spaceport.

JAMES

Phoebe!

He runs towards her.

HUSSAIN

You gotta be fucking kidding me.

ERICA

Who you telling.

James hugs Phoebe.

JAMES

I was so worried about you.

Phoebe kisses him.

MAX

Young love is to be cherished, but perhaps now is not the time to be lost in it.

JAMES

What?

MAX

Run. Both of you. Now!

He starts firing at the League, who starts to fall back.

Wesley, Jane and the rest of their fighting force starts moving forward.

WESLEY

Nice of you to join us.

MAX

I had a few things to take care of.

James and Phoebe run towards the Phoenix.

HUSSAIN

Seems your friend got his wish.

ERICA

Seems so.

HUSSAIN

You're going to keep your word?

ERICA

I always do.

She takes one last look back at Wesley and Max as Phoebe and James run aboard the ship.

Wesley smiles at her, before turning his attention back to the fight. Max nods at her, before following Wesley's lead.

Erica gets onto the ship and it takes off, as Hussain rushes to join the battle.

EXT. SHIPYARD - ROCKWELL

David, Xander and Zack make their way through the shipyard, each carrying a bag full of cash.

ZACK

I'll give it to you Xander, going back was the right call.

DAVID

It was my idea.

XANDER

Wow, you just going to take credit for my brilliance like I'm not even here.

ZACK

That's cold man.

David storms passed them, towards the Shooting Star.

XANDER

He's such an easy target.

ZACK

No kidding. So what do you think? Do we stick this out?

XANDER

(shrugs)

I have nowhere else to be. You?

ZACK

Not a one.

XANDER

So I guess we're stuck with him. For now.

EXT. SPACE

The Phoenix rockets out of the atmosphere, right into an armada of League forces. They have Serenity surrounded.

INT. PHOENIX

Phoebe is at the controls, with James and Phoebe standing right behind her.

JAMES

What now?

PHOEBE

We're going to die.

ERICA

Shut up!

EXT. SPACE

Two Avengers start to close in on the Phoenix. Which makes a sharp turn, flying around the planet.

The Avengers give chase.

INT. PHOENIX

James hugs Phoebe.

PHOEBE

They're closing in on us.

ERICA

I noticed!

EXT. SPACE

Two more Avengers drop down in front of the Phoenix. They open fire, just as the Phoenix pulls up. Their fire destroys the two Avengers that were behind them.

Three dozen Avengers and assault ships exit the Battlecruisers, heading right towards the Phoenix.

JAMES (O.S.)

They're coming right at us!

ERICA (O.S.)

I've noticed!

She turns the Phoenix to try and move out of the way, only they fly right past her and down towards the surface of the world. Even the two Avengers that were after them moments ago, turn and head down towards the surface.

INT. PHOENIX

JAMES
What's going on?

ERICA
Wesley and the others got their attention.

PHOEBE
So what do we do?

ERICA
Fly!!

EXT. SPACE

The Phoenix flies past the battlecruisers, some of which fires at them, but none give chase.

INT. PHOENIX

We see out the viewport that there is nothing but empty space ahead of them.

ERICA
We did it!

JAMES
Thank god!

PHOEBE
I never want to go back there again!

ERICA
Tough, we're going to Salvation and coming right back!

PHOEBE
Do we have to?

ERICA
Yes.

JAMES
We gave them our word!

PHOEBE
We don't even know if they'll be
here when we get back!

ERICA
They'll be here, and they'll need
our help.

INT. BAR - UNKNOWN WORLD

Peter sits alone at a table. He is not amused.

WAITRESS
Are you sure I can't get you
anything?

PETER
I'm sure.

She starts to walk off.

PETER (CONT'D)
Wait.

She turns back towards him.

WAITRESS
Yes?

PETER
What time is it?

WAITRESS
Half past 8.

PETER
Thank you.

WAITRESS
Uh huh.

She goes back towards the bar.

Peter gets to his feet.

PETER
What happens next is on you
Reynolds.

He leaves the bar.

EXT. SPACE PORT - SERENITY

Hussain shoots down the last of the League soldiers. The resistance breaks into cheers.

JANE
We did it!

WESLEY
You ever had any doubt?

JANE
Once or twice.

HUSSAIN
You think our new found friends got
off world?

MAX
If anyone could, it'll be Erica.

HUSSAIN
I kind of hope you're right. But
that's a concern for another time.
Tonight, we celebrate.

MAX
Might be premature for that.

WESLEY
What do you mean?

Ma points up at the sky, where hundreds of League ships are descending.

HUSSAIN
Fuck!

WESLEY
We can't take them.

MAX
Not today perhaps, but soon.

JANE
I like your confidence old timer.

MAX
It's one of my better qualities.
Now you all need to go.

HUSSAIN
What are you going to do?

MAX
Find my son.

Wesley nods.

WESLEY
You heard the man, move out!

The resistance shatters to the wind as the League ships starts to land. Max just walks over to them, his hands in the air.

END