

ORIGINS

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

In the vast blackness of space, there is a planet similar to Earth, except it is surrounded by a glass-like force field.

A massive space ship, armed with cannons and fighter docking bays, approaches the planet and hides behind the planet's single moon.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - BRIDGE

On the command bridge, the crew is made up of KIERANS, pale creatures, with red eyes and fangs.

They control the ship, checking monitors and pushing buttons.

At the helm, sits CAPTAIN STIBOR, large and powerful -- battle-scarred by years of fighting -- He and his crew man their positions on the main screen in front of them.

KIERAN HELMSMAN #1

We are out of the Harkarian's range of detection.

CAPTAIN STIBOR

(to Kieran Helmsman #1)

Good. Commence planetary infiltration program.

KIERAN HELMSAN #1

Aye-aye, Captain.

CAPTAIN STIBOR

(to Helmsman #2)

And the jamming frequency?

Helmsman #2 finishes typing in a sequence, followed by a beep.

KIERAN HELMSMAN #2

Jamming sequence initiated, sir.

Stibor smiles exposing a grimy yellow fang, just as the doors open to reveal-

DRAGOLA, long-haired and mustached, with an air of refinement the others lack.

All of them jump out of their seats and kneel before him as Captain Stibor takes Dragola's hand and kisses it.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Your highness...

DRAGOLA
(to all)
Arise.

They do so and return to work as Stibor arises - towering over Dragola.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
...we are in position and await
your order.

Dragola regards him a moment.

DRAGOLA
Had I not come in when I did, would you
have given the order?

Stibor opens his mouth to protest.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Sir, the window of opportunity --

Dragola grabs the large Kieran around the throat and lifts him with ease, as Stibor struggles in vain against Dragola's vice-like grip.

DRAGOLA
You would do well to not forget your
place, Captain.

Dragola releases Stibor, letting him fall to the ground as he gasps for air.

DRAGOLA
(to Helmsman #1)
Launch the shuttle.

HELMSMAN #1
Yes, Sire.

EXT. SPACE

On the Kieran ship, one of the many docking bays open and Armored Personnel Transports launch and cloak invisible as they head toward the Earth-like planet.

EXT. PLANET HARKARIAN - NIGHT

It is a pristine planet with lush forests, mountains, streams, and lakes.

Scattered amidst the dense flora are high tech pyramids and what appears to be the Sphinx, made entirely of glass -- a perfect coexistence between nature and technology.

IN THE CLEARING

Several HARKARIANS, human-looking in every way, work alongside GRAYS, small humanoid creatures with big black eyes.

They reap a field, working together, until the sound and force of the cloaked APC landing, sends them cowering, running for cover in the forest.

There is a tense moment as the engines power down to a low whir and the hull de-cloaks.

The Harkarians watch from behind the cover of shrubbery.

HARKARIAN FARMER #1
(to Harkarian Farmer #2)
Well, there goes the rest of the
work day.

Harkarian Farmer #2 hushes him as the APC's door opens and armored KIERANS march out and secure the perimeter.

A GRAY FARMER sneezes. The Kierans' ears perk up, pinpointing the sound.

The scared farmers run for their lives into--

THE FOREST

-But the Grays are slow. A Kieran grabs a Gray, sinking his fangs into the little farmer, drinking him dry.

After a moment, the Kieran drops the Gray's lifeless body in disgust and spits out a mouthful of green blood.

HARKARIAN VILLAGE

It is a community made up of homes and shops which share the land with the forest's trees and animals.

Harkarians and Grays go about their daily business.

In an alley, NIX (11), short and chubby, is bullied by a group of OLDER BOYS (13).

BULLY #1

You think you're so smart, don't you?

NIX

Come on--

BULLY #2

(mocking)

Maybe if *my* grandfather was "Gorgias the Great," I'd get the highest marks in science too.

NIX

(under his breath)

Maybe if you paid attention once in a while--

Bully #2 pushes Nix down to the ground.

BULLY #2

What did you say?

Nix turns pale white and cowers.

XANTHIPPE (O.S.)

Nix, come on.

The bullies turn to see XANTHIPPE (12), a short-haired tomboy.

BULLY #1

(to Xanthippe)

But we're not done yet.

XANTHIPPE

Yes, we are.

She goes over to Nix and pulls him to his feet, as the bullies surround her. She stands face to face with the biggest bully of them all, Bully #1.

BULLY #2

(to Nix -- re: Xan)
 You need your girly brother to
 fight your battles?

XANTHIPPE
 That's my sister!

BULLY #1
 (to the others-laughing)
 I bet their parents would die all
 over again, if they saw what kind of
 freaks you turned out to be.

Nix drops his head, but Xanthippe flushes red with anger and
 before Bully #1 knows it, he has been kicked in the stomach and
 thrown to the ground.

Xanthippe wails on him, as tears of rage run down her cheeks. The
 other bullies step back in horror.

BULLY #1
 (crying)
 Please stop! I'm sorry!

NIX
 Xan, stop! Please!

Ignoring him, he tries to pry his sister off the bully, but she
 just shoves him to the ground and continues.

On the street, GORGIAS (60), thin with a thick white beard, walks
 with MADRAS another aged Harkarian, dressed in a civil servant's
 uniform.

GORGIAS
 (heated)
 ... but the algorithm for the
 planetary defense system is far too
 simple. It needs to be rebuilt from
 the ground up.
 (a beat)
 Now, I've been working with a new elemental
 compound that--

MADRAS
 The council would never agree to such an
 expenditure of time and resources.

GORGIAS
 Our security is obsolete, falling even
 behind our aged sonic modulation

translator. Most people groups have opted for translator implants or microbes. As it stands, any savage with interstellar capabilities can breach our systems, attack at will and overcome us. We must enhance our technology, for communication and more importantly for defense.

MADRAS

(chuckling)

Gorgias, old friend. I appreciate your concern, but we have not had a threat since our alliance with the Atlantians.

Gorgias waves him off.

GORGIAS

We're defenseless, *old friend*.

The sounds of the crying bully and Nix's voice capture his attention.

GORGIAS

We'll finish this later.

Gorgias approaches the crowd of kids, pushing them aside. He sees an enraged Xanthippe, atop the unconscious bully.

GORGIAS

Xan!

He pulls her off the boy and grabs Nix, marching them away.

INT. GORGIAS' HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A well-kept ancient-looking room, with comfortable seats. It is decorated with old devices and artifacts. In the center of the room is a large holographic screen with complicated mathematical equations and detailed schematics.

Xanthippe and Nix sit as Gorgias paces back and forth -- angry.

GORGIAS

(to Xanthippe)

You could have killed him!

XANTHIPPE

I was protecting my brother!

GORGIAS

That was far more than just protecting Nix.

XANTHIPPE

He called you a delusional old man.

GORGIAS

Violence is not the Harkarian way.

XANTHIPPE

(shaky)

He said that Mother and Father would die all over again if they saw how we had turned out.

Gorgias stops and sighs. He sits down next to Xanthippe, taking her hand in his.

GORGIAS

Xan...

XANTHIPPE

I'm sorry.

He smiles sadly.

GORGIAS

You are so much like your mother.

A tear rolls down Xanthippe's cheek.

GORGIAS

Nothing is more important to me, than you and your brother.

Gorgias hugs his grandchildren.

PLANET ATLANTIA - DAY

The planet's surface is completely covered in water. Beneath the clear water, are several structures on the ocean floor.

A large sea creature, breaches the surface and plunges back into the water, heading down to--

EXT. CRYSTAL CITY

It's a gleaming metropolis of towering buildings and structures - all made of crystal. The large sea creature hovers between two large buildings, among a school of fish, which live in harmony with the ATLANTIANS.

Suddenly, a manta-shaped craft with "MINISTRY OF SCIENCE" printed on its side rounds a building and narrowly misses the large sea creature and the school of fish, scattering them in a frenzy.

INSIDE THE SCIENCE CRAFT

Sits CLEITO (25), lean and athletic with wild blue eyes. She wears a metallic colored flight suit, as she yips and laughs.

Next to her is EZEKIEL (25), lanky and soft, gripping the sides of his seat with eyes shut.

EZEKIEL

(screaming)

We're gonna die, we're gonna die, we're gonna die...

CLEITO

(laughing)

You can open your eyes now.

He looks behind him at the narrow miss.

EZEKIEL

Why did I let you talk me into this?

CLEITO

(seductive)

It must be my girlish charm.

Ezekiel rolls his eyes.

EZEKIEL

Hey. I heard there's an opening for fighter pilot school. Why don't you-

Cleito's smile fades.

CLEITO

And end up a combat instructor while all my male classmates get to actually fight? No thank you.

EXT. CRYSTAL CITY

The craft speeds between the buildings, narrowly dodging the sea life and other crafts.

Among them is a craft with weapons and "MINISTRY OF JUSTICE" stamped on the doors.

It takes off after Cleito's craft.

BACK INSIDE THE SCIENCE CRAFT

Ezekiel looks behind them and sees the justice craft tailing them. He shrinks into his seat and sighs.

EZEKIEL
(to himself - bitter)
Well, there goes *my* career.

Cleito looks at the screen as the justice craft hails them.

JUSTICE OFFICER (O.S.)
(through the screen)
By order of the Ministry of
Justice, you are ordered to
stop.

Ezekiel moves to respond, but Cleito punches the screen and breaks the intercom.

EZEKIEL
(to Cleito)
What are you doing?!

CLEITO
I tried responding but the com was down
and the controls were malfunctioning.

Ezekiel gives her a quizzical look before she takes an evasive maneuver, making Ezekiel shut his eyes.

CRYSTAL CITY

Cleito's craft speeds up and barrel rolls away from her pursuer, but the justice craft follows, powering up its front cannon. It fires narrowly missing Cleito's craft.

BACK INSIDE THE SCIENCE CRAFT

Cleito watches the pulse wiz right by them.

EZEKIEL

Cleito, stop! They're shooting at us!

CLEITO

Relax. It's just an EMP round.

CRYSTAL CITY

Cleito's ship is now followed by six justice crafts, all shooting EMP rounds at her, none of them hitting her.

The stray EMP rounds hit crafts and buildings, turning them off and making them go dark.

A pod of giant whale-like creatures swim slowly through the city. Cleito dives her ship between the massive animals. A stray EMP round hits the largest one.

It makes a deafening sound and riles the other pod members. The justice crafts run into them, disabling the crafts.

BACK INSIDE THE SCIENCE CRAFT

Cleito looks behind her and smiles triumphantly.

CLEITO

See? No big deal.

She rounds a building's corner and comes face to face with the entire fleet of justice crafts -- with their cannons pointed at them.

EZEKIEL

No big deal, huh?

Cleito powers down the craft and sighs.

COURT ROOM - DAY

It is a room made of crystal, with a high podium where seven JUDGES (40-50), men and women, sit in white robes.

JUDGE IGNATIUS (58), the high judge, stern and hard, sits in the middle, higher than the others.

Below them, stand Ezekiel and Cleito on one side, and the bruised justice officers on the other.

JUDGE IGNATIUS

(seething)

Property damaged, sea life disturbed...

(a beat)

...do you have anything to say for yourselves?

EZEKIEL

Your honor, our craft you see, it malfunctioned
and--

Cleito places a hand over his.

CLEITO

Zeke, it's okay.

(to Judge Ignatius)

It's my fault, sir. Engineer Ezekiel
had no prior knowledge of my actions. I
take full responsibility.

JUDGE IGNATIUS

Am I supposed to be swayed by this
act of self-sacrifice?

(a beat)

You will both be stripped of your
commissions and will spend three years in
the stockade!

JUDGE HELENA (58), with long white braided hair and a soft face,
touches Ignatius on the shoulder.

JUDGE HELENA

(to judge Ignatius)

I would like to speak.

Ignatius begrudgingly gives her the floor.

JUDGE HELENA

Lieutenant, why did you pull a stunt
like this? I mean...

Helena rifles through her screen for information.

JUDGE HELENA

... you have outperformed every
candidate in pilot school since...
your brother.

Cleito lowers her eyes.

JUDGE HELENA

Yet you chose the Ministry of Science.
Why not the fighter pilot program?

CLEITO

With all due respect ma'am, women are not allowed to fly combat. No matter how good they are. At least in the MOS, there is a possibility of seeing combat.

Ignatius notices this, checks a fact and the council whispers to each other.

JUDGE IGNATIUS

I see. We are all eternally grateful for your brother's bravery and sacrifice in the Kieran wars...

He looks at the officers.

JUDGE IGNATIUS

Clearly, great pilots run in your family.

(a beat - to Cleito and Ezekiel)

Both of you will be stripped of your officer status and report to the MOS for reassignment of duties...

Judge Ignatius raps his gavel.

INT. GORGIAS' HOME - EVENING

Gorgias sits at the dinner table with his grandkids as they eat soup.

Suddenly, the whole house shakes and the sound of Kieran APCs is deafening.

EXT. HARKARIAN VILLAGE

The APCs uncloak over the village, sending the forest animals running for their lives. The APCs blow leaves off the trees. The branches and trunks snap beneath the landing, massive steel structures.

Harkarians come out of their homes to see what all the commotion is about.

The hatch opens and Kieran troops descend onto the Harkarian streets.

An alarm sounds and several HARKARIAN MILITIA MEMBERS, dressed in military uniforms come out, armed with clubs and stun guns.

They clash with the Kierans in a bloody and quick battle, but

The militia is no match for the Kierans and their armor. The militia is quickly defeated and bled dry, as doors are kicked in and villagers are dragged out of their homes.

A young man tries to run for it, but a Kieran pounces on him before he takes two steps, his throat is ripped open and is sucked dry.

BACK IN GORGIAS' HOME

The three of them watch in horror, as Nix grips on to Gorgias -- sobbing.

NIX

Don't let them eat me.

GORGIAS

I won't let anything happen to you.

The door is smashed open and a Kieran comes in. He searches, overturning furniture, and destroying everything in his path, but finds no sign of Gorgias and the children.

In the corner of the room, Gorgias and the children are huddled tightly together. He holds a remote-control-sized cloaking device in one hand.

The Kieran turns to leave. Nix shakes with fear as tears and snot drip off his chin. A slight snuffle stops the Kieran, making him perk up his ears and spin around.

He sniffs the air, making Gorgias and the children shrink into each other more, until the Kieran is right in front of them. He gives one last sniff and leaves. The three of them sigh with relief.

GORGIAS

We'll make our way to the outpost and send a distress beacon.

Gorgias guides the children out the back door.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

An ornate room with paintings and sculptures of Kieran life. Dragola watches the feeding frenzy and imprisonment of the Harkarians unfold on a large screen.

Captain Stibor enters, wiping red blood off his face and licking greedily at his fingers. He bows before Dragola.

CAPTAIN STIBOR

Your highness.

(a beat)

Shall I fetch you a fat one? You must be starving.

Dragola turns to face Stibor.

DRAGOLA

I'm not hungry.

CAPTAIN STIBOR

But you must feed, Sire.

Dragola regards the glyph-like mosaics portraying the ancient Kierans as human. Then the glyphs show them in space ships, killing animals, Kierans suffering on a dark and barren landscape.

He looks at a portrait of a man who looks like Dragola, except he appears human and there are trees and animals in the background.

DRAGOLA

(re: the painting)

My father's greed plunged us into the darkness...

He turns to look at the screen where the carnage continues.

DRAGOLA

...and turned us into monsters.

CAPTAIN STIBOR

Sire, you inherited this...disease. If you hadn't called for the exodus of our people, we would have surely perished.

DRAGOLA

Maybe we should have.

(a beat)

State your business.

Stibor looks around the room nervously.

CAPTAIN STIBOR There's a
problem.

Stibor walks over to the screen where the carnage is unfolding and brings up a schematic of two life forms. One is the humanoid Gray and the other is human.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
The majority of the Harkarian
population is comprised of this gray
creature type, who's blood has no
nutritional value to us. The other
species, while delicious, cannot
sustain us for very long.

EXT. HARKARIAN OUTPOST

At the top of a mountain, two large doors open and a large satellite dish, pointing to the sky, emerges from beneath the ground.

A few feet away is the control panel where Gorgias programs the beam.

Suddenly, his cloaking device sparks and smokes, de-cloaking them.

The Kieran from the house roars at seeing them.

NIX
He followed us, grandfather!

Gorgias turns to deal with the Kieran.

XANTHIPPE
(to Gorgias)
Finish the sequence!

Xanthippe picks up a rock and throws it at the Kieran's head, distracting him from Gorgias and attacking her.

He pounces on her, but she takes the Kieran's dagger and cuts his arm. He screams in pain.

Gorgias finishes the sequence and the satellite fires the distress signal.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Dragola and Stibor are still talking when they are hailed.

HELMSMAN #1 (O.S.)
(through the speaker)

Sire, a distress signal was sent
from an outpost overlooking the
village.

Dragola brings up the outpost on the screen.

ON THE SCREEN

He watches as Xanthippe fights off the Kieran in vain. He disarms her and prepares to sink his fangs into her neck as Gorgias pleads for her life. Dragola pushes a button.

DRAGOLA
(to the Kieran)
Wait. I want the three of them alive.

The Kieran stops and nets all three of them and begins to drag them away.

BACK TO SCENE

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Why would you spare them, Sire?

DRAGOLA
They may prove to be useful.

EXT. ATLANTIS - MINISTRY OF SCIENCE BUILDING - MORNING

It is a large hex-style building with Corinthian pillars and a hologram of the four elements at the entrance.

INSIDE A CONTROL ROOM

There are several screens overhead that monitor every sector of the known universe.

ATLANTIAN TECHS sit at their work stations monitoring every transmission they encounter.

Suddenly, Gorgias' distress call is picked up. ATLANTIAN TECH #1's eyes widen as he looks over the transmission.

ATLANTIAN TECH #1
 (to himself)
 By the gods...

The supervisor notices this and approaches.

ATLANTIAN TECH SUPERVISOR
 What is it?

He shows the supervisor as he goes pale.

ATLANTIAN TECH SUPERVISOR
 (quiet)
 Inform Doctor Vern immediately.

IN THE SCIENCE LAB

An amphitheater style laboratory that seats 50, with the laboratory in the center.

DR. VERN (64), a slight man with a white bushy beard, stands in front of a chemistry experiment. There is a large explosion, that is contained within an energy field, no bigger than a basketball..

In the audience, sit SENATORS (30-55), wearing ceremonial togas over their shiny body-suits;

and MILITARY BRASS (30-40), wearing ceremonial armor over their metallic-color body suits.

DR. VERN
 ...so in conclusion, we can contain the energy expenditure of a star, in a sphere the size of a child's toy, rendering it completely safe...

He takes the energy sphere and bounces it like a ball, making the audience gasp.

DR. VERN
 ...until it is needed.

He tosses it to an OLD GENERAL, who catches it nervously, making the audience laugh and clap.

IN THE HALLWAY

He walks obliviously, studying his tablet which displays a complicated mathematical equation as his SECRETARY (20), short and cute, looks over his schedule.

SECRETARY

...wonderful job, sir. And your new security detail is waiting for you in your office.

They arrive at

DR. VERN'S OFFICE

Where they enter and Cleito and Ezekiel are seated. He looks up, confused.

DR. VERN

Can I help you?

They give him a quizzical look, as Vern's secretary rolls her eyes.

SECRETARY

(sighing)

You didn't hear a word I said, did you?

Vern gives his secretary a quizzical look, making her shake her head and leave, closing the door behind her.

The three of them look at each other with a, "What just happened" look.

CLEITO

Dr. Vern, we've been assigned to your security detail, and are at your disposal.

On a large screen, Cleito and Ezekiel's file with their pictures come up.

DR. VERN

Very impressive, especially you Lieutenant Cleito.

(a beat)

Aren't you a bit overqualified to babysit an old man like myself?

Cleito and Ezekiel glance at each other and drop their heads, as Dr. Vern continues reading, then grimaces when he gets to the end.

DR. VERN

Ah, I see. Old Iggy sent you to me as a punishment.

(a beat - chuckling)

Well, it's not the end of your careers. We all make mistakes... even High Judge Ignatius.

Ezekiel lets out a little laugh.

CLEITO

What will our duties entail, sir?

DR. VERN

I'm sorry to say it's pretty boring. Basically, just accompanying me to conferences and making sure I get home before my wife--

Suddenly, Atlantian Tech #1 barges in.

ATLANTIAN TECH #1

(out of breath)

Dr. Vern-- Kierans -- invasion -- Harkarians exterminated...

He brings up the distress signal on the big screen.

ON THE SCREEN

Gorgias at the outpost, with Nix and Xanthippe fighting with a Kieran.

GORGIAS

Kieran forces have broken our planetary defenses... Using us as a food source... all is lost.

In the background, the Kieran can be seen rushing Gorgias whose screaming can be heard before the message cuts out.

BACK TO SCENE

The three of them look at each other -- dazed.

DR. VERN

So much for boring.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

The door slides open and a sentry shoves Gorgias and the kids inside. Dragola has his back to them, watching the monitor.

NIX

(to Gorgias - whispering)

I don't want to be eaten.

Fed up, Xanthippe runs up and lunges at Dragola, but he turns and catches her by the throat with lightning speed.

GORGIAS

Please... don't hurt my granddaughter.

Dragola puts her down gently.

DRAGOLA

I do not wish to hurt you, any of you.

XANTHIPPE

(laughing bitterly)

Is that what you call draining us like gourds?

He sighs.

DRAGOLA

It is with a heavy heart that we feed on your people. I take no pleasure in it.

XANTHIPPE

(unimpressed)

I'm sure.

Gorgias nudges her.

DRAGOLA

We desecrated our planet, and in turn, corrupted our very DNA, turning us into... this.

XANTHIPPE

Are we supposed to pity you?

Dragola narrows his eyes -- annoyed.

GORGIAS

Please, your highness. Continue.

A tense beat.

DRAGOLA

I wish to spare you and your people.
All I ask is that you send the
Atlantians another distress signal.

GORGIAS

(unsure)

Just a distress signal? And you'll spare
us?

The kids look at each other -- hopeful, but Gorgias notices a
large cylindrical machine under a sliding sky light.

Dragola sees what he's eyeing and smiles, showing his sharp white
fangs.

DRAGOLA

(re: the machine)

One of the last relics of our great civilization.

GORGIAS

The experiments your scientists performed
were deemed criminal.

DRAGOLA

(severe)

We ruled absolutely.

A tense beat.

GORGIAS

Is that a particle regenerator?

Gorgias smiles.

DRAGOLA

Yes it is.

GORGIAS

(awed)

I had heard of them, but to see one in
person...

Dragola escorts him to examine it.

DRAGOLA

It's taken me decades to finally rebuild
it.

Gorgias stares at Dragola -- dumbfounded.

GORGIAS

It works?

Dragola nods.

GORGIAS

Its power can destroy a planet.

DRAGOLA

Or restore us.

DRAGOLA

So you will send it?

XANTHIPPE

How do we know that you will keep your word?

In an instant, Dragola is an inch from Xanthippe's face, fangs bared.

DRAGOLA

I could rip you to shreds before you could utter another syllable.

Xanthippe turns white with fear, as Dragola stands and cuts the palm of his hand with his sharp nail, extending his hand to Gorgias.

DRAGOLA

My blood is my oath. I am bound by it.

Gorgias extends a shaky hand and grasps Dragola's.

DRAGOLA

Then it is settled.

INT. ATLANTIAN MILITARY HANGAR - EVENING

A massive hangar, filled with warships. Thousands of TROOPS, in full combat gear and carrying firearms, file inside in tight formation.

Among the troops, a company still stands at attention. In front of them is CAPTAIN LONDO (25), clean cut with an air of arrogance.

LONDO

Today, the Kieran menace has resurfaced,
this time, attacking Planet Harkarian.

(a beat)

For their treachery, we will not accept
their retreat or surrender.

Londo puts his fist over his heart, as his company does the same.

COMPANY

(including Londo)

We are the Atlantian Defense Force.
The gods have forged us with might and
tempered us with wisdom. We pledge our
lives to defending the weak, defeating
evil, and bringing justice to the
universe!

(a beat)

Ah-woo!

The troops turn and file into their ship.

DR. VERN

(calling out)

Captain Londo, a word?

He turns to see Dr. Vern standing with Cleito and Ezekiel, and
approaches.

LONDO

Doctor.

DR. VERN

This is Lieuten--

CLEITO

Specialist Cleito, and Specialist Ezekiel,
sir.

LONDO

Cleito, huh?

She nods apprehensively, a tense moment between them.

DR. VERN

Well Cleito, you go with Captain Londo
and Ezekiel, my boy, you are with me.

LONDO

With all due respect, Doctor. I don't want her--

DR. VERN

No, with all due respect,
Captain...

(a beat)

This mission technically falls under the Ministry of Science, so I am in charge, and I say Specialist Cleito goes with *you*.

Londo clenches his jaw and regards Cleito a moment before spinning on his heels and heading to his ship.

LONDO

(calling back to Cleito)
You coming or what?

Cleito and Dr. Vern exchange a glance. He smiles and motions for her to follow him, before he and Ezekiel board their own ship.

EXT. PLANET ATLANTIA

As the sun is setting, several massive ships breach the water's surface and leave the planet's atmosphere into OUTER SPACE

The fleet gets into attack formation, with Londo's ship in front and Dr. Vern's ship at the center.

ABOARD DR. VERN'S SHIP - HELM

The helm is comprised of ATLANTIAN CREWPEOPLE (20-30). At the center, sits the CAPTAIN (50), clean shaven and hard.

ATLANTIAN CAPTAIN

(to crew member)

Prepare for hyperdrive, in three, two...

By the helm's entrance are two jumpseats, where a nervous Dr. Vern and Ezekiel fumble with their seatbelts.

EZEKIEL

(to Dr. Vern)

Ready for the hyperspace window?

Dr. Vern, pale and sweating, rests his head on the seatback and closes his eyes.

DR. VERN

Never am.

ATLANTIAN CAPTAIN

...one.

OUTER SPACE

A window appears in front of the fleet, as the ships race into it. It quickly closes behind the last one.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HANGAR

Several fighters and APCs line the perimeter. It is completely empty, except for Dragola, Gorgias, and the kids. He leads them towards a small Harkarian craft that is more like an escape pod and invites them to board.

Gorgias hesitates, but Dragola does his best to give him a convincing smile.

DRAGOLA

Please, after you.

They all enter the

HARKARIAN SHIP

Where Gorgias powers it up, types a distress signal, and sends it.

GORGIAS

It is done.

DRAGOLA

Good. You are free to go.

He exits the small ship.

XANTHIPPE

What about the rest of our people or did you forget about them?

DRAGOLA

My blood oath was for your freedom, not your entire people. But, they will be released in due time as well.

XANTHIPPE

You monster!

Gorgias grabs her.

GORGIAS

Silence, child! He is releasing us!

XANTHIPPE

What's stopping him from blowing us to dust as soon as we escape?

Gorgias turns to Dragola for an answer.

DRAGOLA

You are free to go. You will not be harmed by Kieran hands. My blood is my bond.

Gorgias nods apprehensively and closes the hatch door.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - HELM

Captain Londo stands, watching the main screen in front. Cleito sits behind him in the small jump seat.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN

(to Londo)

Sir, we've picked up another distress signal.

(a beat)

It's from a Harkarian craft!

LONDO

Triangulate position.

The crewman does so.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN Holding orbit on the Harkarian moon.

LONDO

Excellent. Set new course and prepare rescue procedures.

The crew goes to work.

CLEITO

Captain, how can we be sure it's not just a Kieran trap?

LONDO

The message was authenticated. It is Harkarian in nature...
(a beat - snide)
Lieutenant.

A beat.

CLEITO

But the Kierans could have--

LONDO

The Kierans' intellect has been rendered barely above an animal with all the toxicity they have absorbed.

Cleito clenches her jaw in anger.

OUTER SPACE - HARKARIAN MOON

The Harkarian ship is in a steady orbit.

INSIDE THE CRAFT

Gorgias desperately presses buttons as Xanthippe has removed a panel of circuitry and is looking it over. Nix sits in a corner with his head buried in his knees.

GORGIAS

The guidance system won't come back online!

XANTHIPPE

Of course it won't. I bet the life support systems are next.

(a beat)

We won't have to worry about the Kierans drinking us dry when we slowly suffocate.

She slams her fist on the floor.

GORGIAS

No, life support is fine. I'll send another message--

He tries the communicator, but it's dead.

They look out the window and see the Kieran ships cloaking as the hyperspace window opens.

GORGIAS

Oh no.

OUTER SPACE

The hyperspace window opens and the Atlantian fleet exits.

INSIDE THE HARKARIAN SHIP

Gorgias punches the communicator button in vain.

GORGIAS

(yelling)

It's a trap! Get out of here! It's a trap!

OUTER SPACE

The Atlantian fleet spreads out, securing their perimeter, before Dr. Vern's ship breaks away and approaches the Harkarian ship.

Gorgias' craft is being reeled in by tractor beam when Kieran warships uncloak.

IN DR. VERN'S SHIP

Alarms go off and crewmembers press buttons as the captain barks orders.

ATLANTIAN CAPTAIN

Take evasive maneuvers. Raise shields!

Ezekiel turns to Dr. Vern.

EZEKIEL

Dr. Vern?

All Dr. Vern can do is smile sadly.

DR. VERN

I'm sorry, my boy.

OUTER SPACE

The Kierans fire on Dr. Vern's ship, blowing it up.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - HELM

There is complete mayhem as the crew works to secure the perimeter and prepare for the fight.

CLEITO
(calling out)
Zeke!

Cleito turns to leave.

LONDO
(to Cleito)
Where do you think you're going?

CLEITO
Those *animals* have a date with
death and I aim to deliver.
(a beat)
Any objections?

Londo scoffs and returns his attention to the helm.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HELM

Captain Stibor barks orders as the crew mounts their assault.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Release the fighters!

Dragola arrives.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Sire, your plan is working just as you
said.

Dragola smiles.

KIERAN HELMSAN #1
Harkarian craft in sight.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Dispose of them.

DRAGOLA

No!

(to Stibor)

I gave my blood oath.

(a beat)

We still need them.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - HANGAR

Pilots rush to their fighters, Cleito is among them. She gets to a fighter, but an ATLANTIAN FIGHTER PILOT pushes her away.

ATLANTIAN PILOT

Where do you think *you're* going?

CLEITO

Out of my way, meat-head.

He scoffs and starts to climb the fighter's ladder.

ATLANTIAN PILOT

(calling back)

You know the rules, no women in combat.

CLEITO

Combat this!

She flushes red with anger and kicks him in the balls, dropping him to the ground, in pain. She boards the FIGHTER SHIP

She ignites the thrusters, gets into the launch line, and flies out of the hangar.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - HELM

On the screen, Londo notices Cleito's fighter outmaneuvering Kieran fighters, destroying one after another.

The other Atlantian fighters quickly take her wingman position, giving her the leader position.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2

Sir, that woman pilot. She has disabled the Kieran's Warship cannons.

Londo smiles.

LONDO

Instruct the squadrons to keep those fighters off of her while she takes out their defenses.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2
Aye, captain.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HELM

KIERAN HELMSMAN #2
Sire, that pilot is reducing our fighters to nothing.

Dragola smiles and nods.

DRAGOLA
Inform the fleet to hold their position and destroy the Atlantian scum.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
But Sire, it will be a slaughter.

DRAGOLA
They're sacrifice is necessary if our race is to survive.

Stibor's eyes widen with horror.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
Sire...

DRAGOLA
(to Kieran Helmsman #1) Retake the Harkarian ship and set course for the Neutral Zone, third planet from its star.
(to Stibor)
If they dare to pursue us, it is there we will make our final stand. No more running.

A tear rolls down Stibor's cheek.

DRAGOLA
(to Stibor)
Is that understood?

Stibor nods.

CAPTAIN STIBOR

Yes, your highness.

OUTER SPACE

The Kieran war ships and fighters hold the Atlantian assault, as the Atlantians advance.

In the melee, Dragola's ship uncloaks, moves towards Gorgias' ship and recaptures it.

Cleito's ship breaks away from her assault on the Kieran warship defenses to protect Gorgias' ship, but it's too late.

Dragola has taken the ship as Cleito fires at the massive mothership -- in vain.

As soon as the Harkarian ship is on board, the Kieran mothership warps away.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - HELM

The room is in disarray as crew members extinguish electrical fires and MEDICS tend to the injured.

An unconscious Londo stirs awake, holding a gash over his forehead.

He strains to stand up.

LONDO

(winded)

Damage report.

ON THE BIG SCREEN

The last of the Kieran ships are destroyed or are burning.

The debris of countless Atlantian fighter ships litter space.

Of all the fleet's ships, Captain Londo's is the last one.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2

(equally wounded)

Shields are at thirty percent...

(a beat)

Decks seven through fifteen have been destroyed, five thousand casualties aboard and counting.

Londo hangs his head.

LONDO

Hale the other captains and...

The crewman turns to Londo with a blank stare.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2

I'm sorry, sir. You're the only one left.

At this, Captain Londo falls into his captain's chair -- in shock. A moment of dazed silence.

Then, the bridge is hailed.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2

(to Londo)

Sir. Master Chief Brasidas, is haling us.

LONDO

On screen.

ON SCREEN

MASTER CHIEF BRASIDAS (50). His stern face has been scarred by years of battle leaving him with only one cold blue eye.

BRASIDAS

Sir.

LONDO

Master Chief. Are you all right?

Brasidas takes a moment to assess his surroundings.

BRASIDAS

Well, my APCs look more like strainers than ships, half my boys are splattered on the walls...

(yelling)

... And one of those walking leeches crashed his rust bucket right through my latrine!

(a beat)

So to answer your question, no. I am NOT all right! Sir.

An awkward moment as Londo takes it all in, then--

LONDO

And we don't even know where those bastards jumped to.

BRASIDAS

Not necessarily.

Londo stares at Brasidas, wide-eyed.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - BRIG

The cell door opens. Londo and Brasidas enter a dimly lit room with nothing but a table and a couple of chairs.

On one side of the table, sits a KIERAN PILOT, shackled to his seat and wounded from battle.

BRASIDAS

(to Londo)

This one didn't have the decency to die before I pulled him out of his cockpit.

LONDO

(to computer log)

Commence recording of Kieran prisoner interrogation.

A chime is heard overhead.

LONDO

(to Kieran)

I am Captain Londo of the Atlantian Armada. You crashed your ship and were pulled out of your craft before you burned to death.

KIERAN #1

I would have rather died.

Brasidas moves towards the Kieran.

BRASIDAS

That can still be arranged.

Londo shoots him a glare and Brasidas stands down.

LONDO

We need your fleet's jump coordinates.

KIERAN #1

(to Londo - sarcastic) Of course. Anything else?

(a beat)

How about my lord's head on a silver platter?

BRASIDAS

You're going to give me those jump coordinates, *chompers*, one way or another.

The Kieran laughs heartily.

KIERAN #1

(to Londo and Brasidas)

Or what? You'll inflict pain? Death?

(a beat)

We are pain. We are death.

He grins, exposing his fangs.

BRASIDAS

Tell me!

Brasidas jumps on the Kieran, choking the life out of him.

LONDO

Master Chief!

Brasidas pays no attention. Londo struggles in vain to pry Brasidas' hands off the Kieran's throat.

LONDO

(to Brasidas)

We need him to tell us where they went!

He still doesn't let go as the Kieran gasps and struggles for air.

BRASIDAS

Kierans don't talk, captain. They fight, they eat, and they kill... (a beat)

...but they don't talk.

Londo is helpless as the Kieran goes limp.

CLEITO (O.C.)

Captain, move.

Londo turns to see--

Cleito pointing a stun gun at Brasidas. Londo jumps off of Brasidas, right before she zaps him and knocks him out.

Brasidas collapses to the floor, as Londo stares -- panting, at Cleito.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HANGAR

Gorgias' little ship sits between two fighters as Dragola stands in front of the entrance.

He nods to one of the KIERAN CREWMEN, and they open the hatch - as the Harkarians come spilling out.

XANTHIPPE

You used us as bait, you monster!

She runs up and pummels Dragola with all her might, but he just looks at her with pity.

GORGIAS

Xan, no!

Before he can reach Xan, Dragola picks her up by the back of her shirt, like a kitten, as she kicks out -- in vain.

In the commotion, Gorgias takes the opportunity to attach a small device on the side of their ship which has a blinking light.

DRAGOLA

(to the Harkarians)

I swore a blood oath to not harm
you...

Dragola gently puts her down, as she runs into Gorgias' arms. He holds his grandchildren tightly.

DRAGOLA

...and here you are, without even a scratch.

A tense moment of silence, then--

GORGIAS

But you let us go. And now--

DRAGOLA

You are my charge until I say otherwise.

(to the crewmen)

Put them with the others.

Dragola begins to walk away, then turns around -- baring his teeth.

GORGIAS

Be grateful I keep my word.

LONDO'S SHIP - BRIG

Londo pats the unconscious Kieran's face.

LONDO Hey.

Wake up.

The Kieran's eyes flutter open, looking dazed. He looks from Londo and Cleito, to the unconscious Brasidas, slumped on the floor.

LONDO

Give me your ship's jump coordinates.

KIERAN #1

(chuckling)

I know nothing.

Londo grits his teeth.

LONDO

Tell me!

The Kieran lets out a maniacal laugh as Londo punches him in the face, making the Kieran laugh even harder.

KIERAN #1

Without your ships you are just as helpless as any other *meat-sack*.

Londo raises his arm again to strike him, but Cleito stops him. Instead, she calmly sits across from the Kieran.

CLEITO

(to Kieran)

I'm Specialist Cleito, and am here to talk to you. Do you understand?

Both the Kieran and Londo look at each other, confused.

The Kieran nods, unsure.

CLEITO

You are right, we are fragile and weak.
And without our technology, we are as
helpless as the Harkarians.

The Kieran chuckles.

CLEITO

(re: herself)
But this meat-sack just saved your life...
(a beat)
... And I invoke the *Varkolaic Oath*.

The Kieran stops chuckling.

Londo opens his mouth to speak but she shoots him a "shut up" glance.

KIERAN #1

But the Var--

CLEITO

-- Can be invoked by *anyone*. Is your
word *not* your bond?

The Kieran bares his fangs and howls in anger as Cleito sits across from him, grinning.

After a moment, the Kieran goes silent and bows his head in acknowledgement.

CLEITO

I ask for your fleet's jump coordinates.

KIERAN #1

(through gritted teeth)
I cede to your request.

CLEITO

And when you've given me the jump coordinates...

She bows slightly.

CLEITO

... I release you of your bond.

The Kieran bows slightly in return.

IN THE HALLWAY

Cleito walks quickly, smiling triumphantly. Londo, still confused, walks behind her.

LONDO
(calling out)
Wait up.

She continues to walk.

LONDO
Cleito, stop!

She stops and stands at attention, doing her best to hide her smile.

CLEITO
(nonchalant)
Yes, captain?

LONDO
What was *that*?

CLEITO
You mean the Varkolaic Oath?

LONDO
The *whata-whata* oath?

Cleito frowns.

CLEITO
(annoyed)
If you save a Kieran's life, they're bound by honor to return the favor.

LONDO
Where did you learn that?

She shrugs.

CLEITO
My emphasis was on "Cultural Studies and Rituals" at the academy.

Londo smiles and nods.

LONDO

Well done, Lieutenant.

He continues walking as Cleito's smile widens.

KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HARKARIAN HOLDING CELL

A couple of KIERAN GUARDS open the sliding door to reveal--

The remaining few thousands of Harkarians. There are cries and gasps of fear at the sight of the Kierans.

Then, Gorgias and the kids are pushed inside.

The three of them face the rest of their people. Gorgias' friend, Madras, emerges from the crowd, shaken and falls into Gorgias' arms.

GORGIAS Madras!

He steadies himself as he just looks into Gorgias' eyes and shakes his head.

MADRAS

(sobbing)

I laughed at you.

GORGIAS

Don't trouble yourself--

MADRAS

We called you an old fool...

(a beat)

And I laughed at my best friend.

Murmurs of unrest begin to stir in the crowd. Gorgias grabs Madras by the arms and shakes him a bit.

GORGIAS

(whispering)

Now is not the time to assign blame, old friend. We have to stay calm and alert if we are to survive, understand?

Madras nods in agreement.

KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Dragola stands over a cylindrical chamber, with a pale and beautiful woman inside. Her eyes are closed, as she lies motionless.

Dragola runs a finger across the glass, over her face.

DRAGOLA
My dearest Mina...

He rests his head on the glass.

DRAGOLA
How I long to hold you again, my love.

He looks up at one of the paintings on the wall.

IN THE PAINTING

Stands a younger and human-looking Dragola, with Mina, both wearing tiaras. In front of them, sit an OLDER MAN and WOMAN, wearing large crowns. The background is a castle, surrounded by a lush green forest.

BACK TO SCENE

Dragola looks back at the chamber, as a tear rolls down his cheek.

DRAGOLA
(whispering)
I have found a way to bring you back, my love.

Just then, the door chimes.

DRAGOLA
(angry)
What!

A beat.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
(tentative)
We've gotten word that the Atlantians are in pursuit.

Dragola opens the door, allowing Stibor in.

DRAGOLA

And?

CAPTAIN STIBOR

It is as you predicted, sire. They are alone.

Dragola smirks.

DRAGOLA

Thank you, captain.

Stibor salutes him and leaves.

LONDO'S SHIP - BRIDGE

The fires are out and power has been restored. Londo sits in his chair, while Cleito wears her lieutenant bars and turns to him.

CLEITO

(shocked)

You're going to do what?!

LONDO

If we don't take the chance to hunt them down now, they may elude our grasp again.

CLEITO

With all due respect captain, we are in no condition to pursue the enemy.

LONDO

I will decide what condition we are in.

Cleito takes a deep breath and approaches him.

CLEITO

(whispering)

Londo, our long-range comms are out, half of our arsenal is gone, along with our troops.

(a beat)

Don't be foolish.

Londo's face reddens and he stands.

LONDO

(angry)

How many times have those leeches
attacked a planet and hidden before we
could come to the rescue?

(a beat)

Planet after planet, we find entire species
extinct because of their insatiable hunger.

CLEITO

I've analyzed every scenario.

(a beat)

We cannot win.

LONDO

That's what I told my squadron leader
when we faced the entire Kieran armada.

Cleito winces at this.

LONDO

He struck me across the face and
told me to return to the barracks if
I was afraid.

Cleito grits her teeth.

CLEITO

There is a difference between fear and
hubris. A lesson my brother learned too
late.

LONDO

How dare you...

CLEITO

The Harkarians are probably already dead
and you want to--

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2

Captain! We're receiving a
Harkarian distress signal.

Both Londo and Cleito regard each other.

LONDO

Point of origin?

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2 In
the neutral zone.

LONDO

(to Cleito)
Well, Lieutenant?

A beat.

CLEITO
Let's finish this.

EXT. EARTH'S ORBIT

Out of the blackness, the massive Kieran mothership comes out of warp drive and hovers over Earth.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - BRIDGE

Dragola is lost in thought as he regards the blue planet in front of him.

CAPTAIN STIBOR
(whispering)
Your highness, we're awaiting your orders.

Dragola comes to.

DRAGOLA
Initiate operations and begin the descent.

The helmsman nods and prepares.

IN THE HOLDING CELL

Gorgias and the rest of the Harkarians huddle together. The ship begins to shake violently as it enters the Earth's atmosphere.

Everyone screams in fear, as Gorgias holds his grandchildren tightly.

EXT. ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA 3000 B.C. - DAY

A vast valley laden with fertile green fields and a wide river flowing through it.

FARMERS tend to the fields and grazing livestock, as elegantly robed men oversee the work and ride chariots.

Nearby, stands a high-walled city, made of mortar and brick as spear-carrying TROOPS patrol the perimeter of the main gates.

IN THE FIELDS

Men and women, young and old, work the fields.

MARDUK (17), broad shouldered and good looking, is among them, as he cuts down barley with a scythe.

He works alongside his father, BOAZ (40), thin and sickly.

NASSIR (35), fat and wearing elegant priest's robes, rides his chariot as two horse-backed BODY GUARDS flank him.

Nassir steps off his chariot and observes the workers, making Marduk scoff.

BOAZ

Bite your tongue, boy. Lest you bring attention to yourself.

MARDUK

(re: Nassir)

The bloated pig has never done an honest day's work and he stands over us like his property.

BOAZ

The gods saw fit to make him the high priest...

(a beat)

... and they saw fit to make you a farmer's son.

Nassir spots a beautiful YOUNG GIRL (15), working alongside her MOTHER (35), and approaches them.

NASSIR

(to the girl)

Good afternoon, my dear.

The young girl stops working and faces Nassir -- eyes cast down.

He caresses her face.

NASSIR

(lecherous)

Such a beautiful child.

(to her mother)

Is she yours?

Her mother nods -- afraid.

NASSIR

(to the girl)

The gods have spoken. And they desire
you.

The girl looks at her mother -- pleading.

NASSIR

Your sacrifice will ensure the harvest will be
plentiful.

MARDUK

(to Boaz)

Why is it that only beautiful girls are
chosen by the gods?

The young girl begins to cry as Nassir pulls her towards his
chariot. Her mother pulls at the girl's arm in vain -- crying.

MARDUK

If the gods see this as fit, then I spit on
them and their will.

He spits.

BOAZ

(enraged - whispering) You
will damn us all!

MARDUK

Look around, father. We're already damned.

Marduk approaches Nassir.

MARDUK

(sarcastic)
Good day, priest.

Nassir stops and regards Marduk.

NASSIR

Greetings to you, Marduk, son of Boaz.
(a beat)

I see you have healed well from your
wounds.

Marduk looks down at the deep long scar, running down his arm.

MARDUK

A small price to pay for his highness' victory on the battle field.

(a beat)

Luckily for you, priests are excluded from military service.

Nassir's face reddens.

NASSIR

I ensure the gods are appeased.

MARDUK

(sarcastic)

Your brother is fortunate to have such an emissary.

The body guards stiffen and poise their spears.

NASSIR

Watch your tongue farmer, should you wish to keep it.

Marduk scoffs.

MARDUK

How odd the gods never demand one of your kin as a sacrifice.

Nassir motions to the guards to attack Marduk. Even though they tower over Marduk, he is quick and agile.

He buries his scythe in one of their necks and impales the other with his own spear.

Nassir hops onto his chariot and tries to make a run for it, but Marduk throws the spear at one of the wheels, shattering it and knocking Nassir to the ground. Marduk picks up the scythe again and approaches a blubbering Nassir.

NASSIR

(terrified)

Please... have mercy.

Marduk stands over him.

MARDUK

Perhaps the gods demand *your* blood as
sacrifice.

Just then, an arrow hits the ground next to Marduk.

He turns to see --

An entire battalion with drawn swords and poised archers.

Marduk regards Nassir, Boaz, and raises his arms in surrender.

Suddenly, the sky roars as if it has been torn open, and a fire ball descends from the sky, sending soldier and farmer alike, running for cover, back into the city.

All except Marduk, who stares at the Kieran ship, in disbelief.

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- In the walled city, MESOPOTAMIANS reinforce the city gates as OLD WOMEN cry and plead for mercy to the gods.

-- On the Atlantian ship, the remaining troops and crew, stand in formation as the coffins are arranged in rows.

They are shot out into space, one by one, as Londo speaks their names M.O.S.

-- The Kieran ship lands in a clearing, scorching the ground beneath it. A door opens and Kieran gliders, holding armor-clad Kierans fly out, headed for the city.

-- Outside the city, Marduk bangs on the city gates to be let in, but he is pelted with rocks and garbage until he flees into the wilderness, scared and alone.

-- On the Atlantian ship, the ceremony continues as Londo pins commander bars on Cleito's lapels. They all salute her, as she fights back her tears, returning their salute.

-- In the walled city, the temple is crowded as the people tug at Nassir's robes in fear and desperation. His guards can do little to keep them back.

-- Just then, Kierans drop into the city, slaughtering and corralling everyone in their path. The soldiers are no match for the Kierans, the Mesopotamians are broken and drunk dry.

-- In the temple, the people cower and throw Nassir to the Kierans. He raises his hands and bows before them. The Kieran in front of him stops and regards him curiously.

NASSIR

I am Nassir. Your servant and high priest of
the Temple Of--

-- The Kieran plunges his hand into Nassir's chest and removes his heart, eating it. The rest of the people scream.

-- Above the Earth's orbit, the Atlantian ship comes out of warp drive. On the bridge, sits Londo in the captain's chair and Cleito stands next to him, barking orders at the crew.

--In space, the Atlantian ship begins its descent to Earth.

END MONTAGE

ON THE MOON

A squadron of Kieran fighter ships power up their engines and get behind the Atlantian ship.

I/E. LONDO'S SHIP - BRIDGE / OUTER SPACE

Everyone braces themselves as they pass through Earth's atmosphere.

CLEITO

Hold her steady!

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #1

Commander! Kierans behind us!

Outside, the Kierans unload their arsenal, causing severe damage.

LONDO

Fire back!

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #1

I Can't captain; our rear cannons
are still down!

LONDO

Divert life support power to rear shields.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2

If we do that, we will lose our
stabilizers and crash.

The ship is rattled with impact after impact. Cleito thinks for a moment, then-

CLEITO

Overload the warp drive and eject it.

They all stop and look at her.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2
But Commander, then we'll surely
never return home.

CLEITO
If you don't do it, we're dead for sure.

Londo and Cleito exchange a determined glance.

LONDO
You heard the commander!

INT. KIERAN SQUADRON LEADER'S SHIP

KIERAN SQUADRON LEADER
(to the others)
Move into tight formation. We end this
Atlantian nuisance once and for all!

I/E. LONDO'S SHIP - BRIDGE / OUTER SPACE

The Kieran ships move in tight.

On Londo's bridge, Cleito watches on screen as the Kierans
complete their formation.

CLEITO Now.

Outside, the warp drive is ejected from the Atlantian ship. The
Kieran formation fires at the warp drive, making it implode,
causing it to form a black hole and sucking the squadron in along
with any debris around it.

It is so powerful, Londo's ship is now slowing down.

Inside, Londo grips the arms of his chair.

LONDO
(to the crewmen)
Give her more power!

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #1
That's all got, captain!

LONDO

(to Cleito)
I hope you know what you're doing.

CLEITO
Me too.

Outside, Londo's ship is in a tug of war between the black hole and Earth's gravity.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2
We'll be torn apart!

The crewman moves to get out of his seat.

CLEITO
Hold fast, or we all die!

He remains and keeps the engines at their current setting.

Suddenly, the black hole implodes on itself and returns space to peaceful blackness.

But the ship is now heading towards Earth at full speed.

INT. LONDO'S SHIP - BRIDGE

The bridge is shaking itself apart.

CLEITO
Reverse engines, full power!

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #2
She won't survive atmospheric entry.

ATLANTIAN CREWMAN #1
Engine failure is imminent.

CLEITO
(to the ship)
Not yet. Come on, baby. One last ride.

EXT. ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA - DAY

In the forested hills, above the city, a scared Marduk watches the city burn as terrified people are marched out through the gates towards the Kieran ship.

The Atlantian ship falls like a meteor across the Mesopotamian sky.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HARKARIAN HOLDING CELL

Gorgias still holds his grandchildren tightly as they all wait nervously for something to happen.

Then, a large door slides open, letting in the bright sun. Harkarians gasp and shield their eyes.

After a moment of shock, Gorgias stands up and moves towards the door and on to the--

KIERAN CAMP

He steps onto the ground and flinches at the sight of a line of Kierans, standing at attention. But Dragola also stands there and motions for them to come forward.

Gorgias, in turn, motions for the Harkarians to exit the ship. One by one, they exit the ship and huddle together.

DRAGOLA

(to the Harkarians)

Today marks the beginning of a new era. An era where Harkarians do not fear Kierans.

(a beat)

No Kieran hand will harm you again.

There is mumbling and distrusting looks amongst the Harkarians.

DRAGOLA

My word is my bond. Go forth and live in peace.

They cautiously walk away, never taking their eyes off Dragola and the Kierans.

GREEK ISLANDS

The massive Atlantian ship, crashes into the sea, causing a tsunami, unlike any before.

Entire islands are swallowed up, never to be seen again.

ON THE OCEAN FLOOR

The ship finally comes to rest. Then--

Atlantian personnel begin to swim out of escape hatches, having no trouble breathing under water. Londo and Cleito are the last to exit.

The hangar door opens and APCs and fighter ships exit the ship and head for the surface.

ON THE SURFACE

Atlantians swim and jump out of the water with the joy of being alive. Dolphins approach them and they play, swim, and jump together.

The APCs and fighter ships beach themselves in the sand as Londo calls all personnel to form ranks.

MESOPOTAMIAN HILLSIDE

The Harkarians trudge through the forest, trying to get as much distance as possible between them and the Kierans.

Below, they see the enslaved Mesopotamians being led back to the ship.

XANTHIPPE

(to Gorgias)

Those poor creatures...

MADRAS

Better them than us.

XANTHIPPE

How long do you think they will
keep the Kierans fed?

(a beat)

Who do you think will be on the menu
when they are extinct?

The Harkarians mumble and give her reproachful glares.

MADRAS

(to Gorgias)

Take care not to let this one's
mouth run too far, old friend.

(a beat)

Talk like that can mean excommunication
from our new home.

Xan regards him with disdain.

The snapping of a twig, makes them all jump, revealing--
Marduk, angry and scared, holding a scythe.

MARDUK

(yelling)

Why have you done this?

Unable to understand him, the Harkarians jump back, shrieking at his sudden appearance -- except for Xan.

XANTHIPPE

(to Nix - whispering)

Hey, you still have that sonic modulator on you?

Nix produces a thin remote control and points it at Marduk. He yells and raises his scythe.

NIX

Wait. Don't!

Marduk stops.

MARDUK

(shocked)

I can understand you.

Nix sighs in relief.

NIX

Of course you can.

A tense beat.

MARDUK

Why have you done this? Have we not sacrificed enough children to appease you?

Nix jumps back as the rest of them regard Marduk with utter horror.

He kneels.

MARDUK

My gods... please do not punish my people for *my* insolence.

Gorgias steps forward.

GORGIAS

(timid)

We are not gods, young man.

(a beat)

We were taken prisoners, like you.

Marduk thinks it over a moment.

MARDUK

Then I will give myself to them and appease
the gods' wrath.

The Harkarians glance at each other awkwardly.

GORGIAS

They are not gods either.

Marduk regards them with utter confusion.

MARDUK

But you came from the heavens.

(a beat)

Then what news do you bring from them?

Gorgias shrugs.

GORGIAS

If there are gods, my boy... I have never
met one.

MARDUK

Then, the other ball of fire that fell
from the heavens...

Gorgias and the kids look at each other.

NIX

Grandpa, do you think the Atlantians
picked up the distress signal?

Gorgias hugs him.

GORGIAS

Maybe so, Nix. Maybe so.

A beat, then--

Marduk drops his scythe and approaches Gorgias, with his hand outstretched.

MARDUK

I am Marduk, son of Boaz.

Gorgias steps forward, mimicking Marduk.

GORGIAS

I am Gorgias, these are my
grandchildren, Nix and Xanthippe.

(a beat)

We come from the planet Harkarian.

Marduk clasps Gorgias' forearm and shakes it.

MARDUK

Welcome.

Gorgias and the rest Harkarians relax. Then, Nix grabs his belly.

NIX

Grandpa, I'm hungry.

Gorgias looks from his grandson to the rest of them and realizes how hungry they are.

GORGIAS

(to Marduk)

Would you help us find food?

Marduk smiles and nods.

MARDUK

Of course. Follow me.

ATLANTIAN CRASH SITE

On the beach, Atlantian crew members prepare the APCs and fighter ships, while troops and fighter pilots come together for a briefing.

In the briefing area, Brasidas stands next to a 3D hologram projector, showing an image of Earth.

BRASIDAS

Those leeches landed right around here. As of right now, this is still a rescue mission.

(a beat)

Our primary concern is rescuing the Harkarians.

Londo steps next to Brasidas.

LONDO

Gentlemen, I do not have to tell you the gravity of our situation. We are low on power and ammo.

A line from their camp to the Kieran crash site appears.

CLEITO

We are approximately twelve hundred clicks west of our engagement point.

(a beat)

Ground forces will lead the invasion as fighters will provide air support.

LONDO

There may be more of them, but we are better trained and have the element of surprise.

(a beat)

Good luck to you all.

Brasidas salutes Londo, prompting everyone else to salute. He returns the salute before walking away.

KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - HANGAR

The Kierans feast on helpless humans. On a landing above, Dragola watches in disgust as the humans' screams echo in the hull.

Stibor, comes over and watches the carnage next to him. Stibor smiles as his face is smeared with fresh blood.

STIBOR

(re: the humans)

Such bounty and taste.

IN THE HANGAR

A man breaks free from a Kieran's grasp and makes a run for the opening, but knocks himself unconscious on the invisible force field.

BACK TO SCENE

Stibor laughs heartily at this.

STIBOR

And stupid to boot.

Stibor regards Dragola and his smile fades, as he watches the carnage in disgust.

STIBOR

You do not look well, sire. When did you last eat?

DRAGOLA

I'm not hungry.

Dragola turns and exits.

IN DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Mina lays in her stasis chamber as Dragola storms in. He approaches her chamber and enters a sequence on its key pad.

A hatch above them slides open, hitting both of them with a ray of sunlight.

Another few strokes on the key pad, and a tube of black liquid rises out of a compartment.

He works quickly, taking a syringe and drawing from the black liquid.

He enters another sequence and the chamber opens. Just as he does, Mina begins to crack and decompose.

Dragola injects her quickly and the decomposition stops. He enters another sequence on the keypad and a red button lights up.

DRAGOLA

Come back to me, my love.

He presses the red button and electricity courses through her as the sun rays hit her -- snapping her eyes open, arching her back, sending her convulsing and screaming.

The electricity stops and so does she as Dragola watches, hopeful.

Her cracked and rotting skin, starts to heal as she takes a deep breath and flutters her eyes open.

He steps into the darkness so she can't see him.

She stretches and sits up.

MINA
(confused)
My love?

DRAGOLA
(emotional)
Yes...

She looks around.

MINA
What is this place?

He appears, still cloaked in shadows.

MINA
Why do you stand in the dark?

DRAGOLA
Because I will frighten you.

She chuckles and gets off of the chamber.

MINA
Don't be silly.

She approaches him but he hides his face with his cape. Her smile fades as she covers her nose.

MINA
(scared)
Why does this place wreak of death?

DRAGOLA
A lot has happened, my love.

She runs into his arms and sees him. She shrieks, stumbling back into the light -- speechless.

MINA
What... what --

DRAGOLA
Please calm down, my love.

She takes a deep breath and steels herself.

MINA

Everything I knew is gone, isn't it?

DRAGOLA

Yes.

MINA

And we are not on Kieran?

Dragola slowly approaches, shaking his head.

FLASH BACK - PLANET KIERAN - THE CAPITAL

A booming industrial high metropolis spreads through a valley. At the center, on a mound, stands a large metal tower with spires and turrets.

THE KING from the paintings, watches as the sky is dark with smog.

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

As the demand for weapons increased in the galaxy, father was more than happy to oblige.

OUTER SPACE

Kieran war ships attack each other, destroying, and evading each other. One set are white with red insignias on their tails, while the others are gun metal gray with yellow markings on their wings.

IN THE CITY

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

His wealth grew exponentially, but at a terrible cost

It is dirty as people work manufacturing weapons and warships.

FORESTED VALLEY

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

Father's greed poisoned the water and air.

A beautiful valley full of trees, streams, and mountains -- it's teeming with wildlife.

Then, giant machines fly over, razing the ground bare. The machines expand and begin to mine metal from underground.

In no time, the clear water running in the stream turns into black sludge.

Animals and fish choke and die.

COUNTRY PALACE

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

And when I asked questions, he gave me weak answers.

It is a beautiful white tower, where nature is still pristine.

Mina and the courtiers, sit under a tree, picnicking.

Dragola, looking human, sneaks up behind them and wraps his arms around Mina, biting her neck, then gently kissing her pregnant belly. She and the other ladies giggle.

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

I turned a blind eye.

(a beat)

Until it was too late.

He sees his father's convoy approaching. The ships look damaged. He kisses her and tells the ladies MOS, to continue their picnic.

IN THE KING'S QUARTER'S

The king sits at his desk, chests of gold and jewels sit next to him.

Dragola bursts in, red with anger.

DRAGOLA

How could you?

The king rises, and smiles defiantly.

KING

Hello, son.

DRAGOLA

You sold the same warships to the Friesians and Progerians.

(a beat)

The Atlantians will call for sanctions...
maybe even an embargo!

The king comes over to Dragola.

KING

They will do no such thing.

DRAGOLA

Father, this is blatant
warmongering.

(a beat)

The council *will* take action.

KING

If they do, I will halt all coalition
forces' armaments immediately.

(a beat - chuckling)

Let's see them protect the universe with
those Atlantian water guns.

IN THE CAPITAL

People are sick and dying in the streets. They try to leave the city, but the military won't allow it. The two sides clash, leaving dead civilians to rot where they died.

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

Not only had his greed poisoned our
world, it had poisoned our people, too.

IN THE SEWERS

A man, trudges through the sewers. He goes up a ladder and pushes open the storm drain and enters--

A HANGAR

Where the king's ship is preparing to take off. The scared, sick man, makes his way to the landing gear and grabs on for dear life.

In a moment, the ship's engines power on and it takes off.

He goes unnoticed by ground crews and guards.

THE CAPITAL

It is chaos as factory workers fire half-finished artillery at the king's ship and his convoy -- damaging them.

ON THE KING'S SHIP

The man holds on as the landing gear is stowed and he is safely inside.

COUNTRY PALACE

The ship's landing gear deploys as they reach the palace. The ships speed over a large lake as they prepare to land.

The man, tired and dirty, lets himself fall close to the shore, where Mina and the ladies are sitting.

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

Your kindness and bravery, sealed
your fate.

The man flails in the water, catching Mina's attention. She dives in and pulls the man out, but he's not breathing.

Her courtiers are frozen with fear, but she gives him mouth to mouth and he coughs up the water.

Just then, royal guard crafts touch down and take the man away.

MINA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Mina is sick and coughing. Dragola sits at her side, holding her hand and crying.

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

When the plague came, you were one of
its first casualties outside of the
city.

IN THE COURTYARD

People lay dead and dying.

EXT. KING'S BALCONY

The king, also sick, stands watching the setting sun as Atlantian and coalition ships fire on Kieran ground forces and ships.

Dragola, showing signs of fever, approaches his father.

DRAGOLA

(bitter)

Your grandson has died in child birth.

The king, lost in thought, turns with a sad smile to Dragola and jumps off the balcony, to his own death.

Dragola stands alone, watching the invading forces advancing.

DRAGOLA (V.O.)

The few hundreds of us who survived, became *this*.

(a beat)

Surviving off of blood like blood-sucking parasites.

BACK TO SCENE

Mina listens to Dragola, with tears streaming down her cheeks.

DRAGOLA

I have moved mountains and waited centuries to look into your eyes again.

She approaches him and slowly takes his hands in hers.

MINA Centuries?

He nods sadly.

MINA

Then wait no more, my love.

She takes his face in her hand and kisses him.

EXT. HARKARIAN CAMP - EVENING

In a clearing, makeshift shelters have been erected out of sticks and leaves, as a large bonfire burns in the center.

A large carcass cooks over the flame as Marduk breathes in the aroma and sighs. The Harkarians though, cover their noses with disgust.

Gorgias, Nix, and Xan enter the camp, holding foraged nuts, berries, and roots.

NIX

(to Gorgias)

What is that awful smell?

GORGIAS

I believe it is burning flesh.

Nix shudders.

NIX

How barbaric.

In the distance, Atlantian crafts come in low and fast.

INT. CLEITO'S CRAFT

Cleito sits in the command chair.

CLEITO

(to crewman #1)

Run a scan to see if the Kierans have altered their position.

CREWMAN #1

Negative.

CLEITO

Then let's end this once and for all.

CREWMAN #2

Commander! We're getting a unique Harkarian signature within the assault kill zone.

CLEITO

On screen.

ON THE SCREEN

Shows Marduk offering Gorgias and Madras a leg of lamb and Madras turning and vomiting.

BACK TO SCENE

CLEITO

(to crewman #1)

Get me a secure channel.

Crewman #1 punches a couple of buttons.

CREWMAN #1

Commander is broadcasting.

CLEITO

Abort assault. I repeat, abort assault.

INT. LONDO'S CRAFT

Londo gets out of his chair.

LONDO

This better be good, commander!

CLEITO (O.S.)

(through the speaker)

Is finding the surviving Harkarians good enough?

(a beat)

Sending Harkarian coordinates now, sir.

Looks of surprise as crewmen whisper to each other -- impressed.

LONDO

(to a crewman)

You got something to say?

The crewman stands at attention.

CREWMAN

(timid)

It's just... she's kind of amazing. Sir.

LONDO

(quiet)

Yes, she is.

EXT. HARKARIAN CAMP

In the makeshift camp the Harkarians breathe the first sigh of relief in a long time. Then--

There's a rustle in the bushes. The sound of military boots breaking branches startles them. Marduk reaches for his sword.

As Londo and Atlantian troops emerge from the brush, Marduk pounces on Londo, knocking the weapon out of his hands.

Brasidas swings his rifle like a club at Marduk, but he is more adept to fighting in close quarter combat and cracks Brasidas' head bloody with the butt of his sword.

Gorgias and the Harkarians recognize the uniforms.

GORGIAS

Marduk, they're friends!

Another soldier fires, nearly hitting Londo and Marduk slashes at him, cutting the soldier's arm.

Marduk grabs Londo and puts his sword to Londo's throat.

MARDUK

Leave this place! Leave or die like your leader!

Suddenly, Marduk falls to the ground unconscious, revealing Cleito standing behind him, holding a rock in her hand.

KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Dragola and Mina lay in bed when he is hailed.

DRAGOLA

(through a speaker)
What!?

STIBOR (O.S.)

(through a speaker)
It is important I speak with you, in private.

Dragola regards Mina a moment.

DRAGOLA

Yes, it is.

They get up.

OUTSIDE DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Stibor waits impatiently as he checks to make sure the hallway is empty. Then, the door opens and he enters

DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

STIBOR

Your highness, the troops are full and...

He stares, mouth agape as he sees a smiling Mina.

MINA Stibor?

Stibor drops to one knee.

STIBOR

(shocked)

My queen.

She lets out a tiny giggle.

MINA

Get up, old friend.

He does so, and does his best to wipe his bloody mouth.

STIBOR

But how...

MINA

(to Dragola)

My love, I would like to see our people.

Both Stibor and Dragola exchange a nervous glance.

DRAGOLA

All in good time, my love.

STIBOR

You are needed on the bridge, sire.

IN THE HALLWAY

Dragola and Stibor walk.

STIBOR

Mina, she looks...

DRAGOLA

I found the cure, old friend. The key
was this planet's sun.

Stibor stops -- shocked.

STIBOR

But what of the prisoners?

DRAGOLA

We can go back to being like we were.
(a beat)

After centuries of searching... we can be Kieran again.

A beat.

STIBOR

What if our people like what they are now? Strong... fast... ruthless.

Dragola scoffs.

DRAGOLA

When they see their queen--

STIBOR

With all due respect, sire. I fear for the queen's safety in her...

(a beat)

...condition.

Dragola regards Stibor a moment.

DRAGOLA

Perhaps you are right. We will keep this between us for now.

Dragola puts his hand on Stibor's shoulder.

DRAGOLA

Thank you for your counsel and your friendship.

Stibor nods.

STIBOR

Of course, sire.

Stibor does his best to smile as he walks away. His smile fades and he clenches his jaws in anger.

MESOPOTAMIAN HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Marduk lies on an Atlantian stretcher, receiving medical attention from a MEDIC as he stirs awake.

He opens his eyes and tries to jump off the stretcher, but he is tied to it -- writhing and screaming.

Gorgias, Londo, and Cleito come running up to him.

GORGIAS

You are safe, they are friends.

Marduk stops struggling and eyes them cautiously.

MARDUK

They too are fallen gods?

Cleito and Londo exchange a curious glance.

GORGIAS

They have come to fight the fallen ones.

He relaxes and nods.

MARDUK

Then, I thank you for your aid. Apologies.
I did not know who you were.

Just then, Brasidas walks up with a bandaged head.

BRASIDAS

You're pretty spry there, savage.

LONDO

(to Brasidas)

You're just upset because he bested you...

Brasidas scoffs.

LONDO

...and because Cleito bested *him*.

BRASIDAS

(muttering)

A lucky hit.

He turns and leaves as Londo, Gorgias, and Cleito stifle a smile.

In the camp, the Atlantians intermingle with the Harkarians as Gorgias, Madras, Londo, Cleito, and Brasidas squat down. Marduk draws out their position with a stick on the ground.

MARDUK

The gods --

(a beat)

The Kierans are located, here.

He draws an "x" in the dirt.

MARDUK

We are here...

He draws another "x" in the dirt.

MARDUK

We have the cover of night and the trees.

CLEITO

(to Marduk)

No we don't.

(a beat)

Their night vision is as good as yours or mine is in the daylight.

He stares -- surprised.

LONDO

Do we know if their thermal
scanners and motions sensors are
still operational?

Gorgias looks from them then to the ground.

MADRAS

(to Gorgias)

What's wrong?

GORGIAS

They have a Particle Regenerator.
(a beat)
And it works.

Everyone stares -- dumbfounded.

LONDO

But we destroyed them all in the great
war.

Gorgias shakes his head.

LONDO

What does he mean to do with it?

MADRAS

(scared)

Probably destroy the planet with all of
us on it.

They all look at each other a moment.

LONDO

Let's hope that is not the case.

EXT. KIERAN CAMP - NIGHT

By the ship, Kierans continue to feast on dead and dying humans as their moans and screams echo in the forest.

A large pyre burns as Kierans throw corpses onto it.

IN THE FOREST

Is a clearing, four KIERAN OFFICERS, gray-haired and battle scarred, huddle around. The sound of a breaking twig turns their attention towards the noise -- with bared fangs.

Out of the brush comes Stibor.

KIERAN COLONEL

(to Stibor - scoffing)

Is all this secrecy really necessary?

STIBOR

Our very futures depend on it, colonel.

The colonel's smirk fades -- Stibor has their undivided attention.

STIBOR

(to the officers)

We command the Kieran armed forces, beholden only to Dragola. We have fought and bled for him, with absolute obedience.

(a beat)

But I can no longer, after what I learned to day.

A Kieran Major, with a bushy white mustache growls.

KIERAN MAJOR

(to Stibor)

Choose your words wisely, Captain. Or I might make them your last.

STIBOR

(re: to Dragola)

He used a particle regenerator to bring
the queen back.

They all stare, mouth agape at him.

KIERAN GENERAL

Such lies—

STIBOR

I saw her with my own eyes, general.
Talking and breathing as you are now.

(a beat)

Well, not like you or I.

KIERAN COLONEL

(excited)

This is wonderful news. The queen's return
is--

STIBOR

She's not like us.

(a beat)

She's like... we used to be.

KIERAN MAJOR

(re: Dragola)

He found a cure?

STIBOR

And he means to restore us.

The officers exchange surprised glances.

STIBOR

I don't know about you, but I *like* what we
are.

He strikes a tree, knocking it down and lifts his unharmed fist.

STIBOR

And on this planet, we can rule and feed
for centuries to come.

KIERAN GENERAL

This is madness! Dragola is our
king.

The others turn their attention on him as Stibor walks towards
him.

STIBOR

How much have we endured because of the
Dracul?

(a beat)

We can end this, old friend.

The general looks down -- torn.

KIERAN GENERAL

I served his father...

(a beat - bitter)

I sacrificed my family...

Stibor smiles.

STIBOR

When he engages the particle
regenerator, I will reverse the
polarity and make us even stronger.

(a beat - chuckling)

What do you think our people will do
when they learn he meant to weaken us?

KIERAN COLONEL

They will tear him limb from limb.

A tense beat.

KIERAN MAJOR

Once we start this, there is no
turning back.

They all look at each other, nodding in agreement.

HARKARIAN CAMP

The children laugh and play games. Nix plays with a couple of
kids as the bullies approach.

Nix braces for a confrontation.

BULLY #1

(to Nix)

Uh, hey. Can we play too?

Nix smiles and nods.

Sitting alone by a fire, sits Xan -- lost in thought.

She turns her attention to the footsteps behind her, to reveal--
Gorgias coming and sitting down next to her. He regards the
children playing.

GORGIAS

You didn't want to play?

She shakes her head without looking at him. They see Nix laughing
and playing with the other children.

GORGIAS

(chuckling)

Look at your brother.

XANTHIPPE

(sad)

I'm happy for him.

GORGIAS

(sad)

I wish I could give you back your childhood.

A beat.

XANTHIPPE

What is the plan of attack?

GORGIAS

Well, the Atlantians are going to attack
at first light and when they win, we can
all live happily, in peace.

XANTHIPPE

What about us?

GORGIAS

What *about* us?

XANTHIPPE

What are we doing to help?

GORGIAS

(concerned)

Staying out of the way.

She scoffs and stands.

XANTHIPPE

(fed up)

After everything we have lost, you
still refuse to take a stand against
those monsters?

Gorgias stands.

GORGIAS

We are inventors and thinkers, not warriors.
(a beat)
That is the way it has always been.

XANTHIPPE

Wake up, grandfather. That worked when we
still had a planet.

She storms off, leaving Gorgias puzzled.

IN THE ATLANTIAN MILITARY CAMP - EARLY MORNING

It is still dark as Atlantian troops assemble and prepare to
board their APCs.

Fighter craft hover above in a holding pattern, awaiting strike
orders.

Marduk watches in awe and fear at the sights and sounds of their
weapons and crafts.

Londo motions for Marduk to join him.

IN THE APC

Londo gives Marduk a hand in.

MARDUK

Where is Cleito?

He smirks.

LONDO

You like her, don't you?

Marduk blushes.

LONDO

Don't worry, she has that effect on all of
us.

MARDUK

Is she not coming?

Londo points to the fighters above them.

LONDO

Already up there... returned to base to
lead the squadron.

Marduk gives him a confused look.

Just then, the APCs' engines power up.

LONDO

You might want to hold onto something...

It takes off and Marduk grabs onto Londo for dear life.

LONDO

(chuckling)

I meant the rail.

INT. CLEITO'S FIGHTER

She wears a helmet and flight gear.

CLEITO

(to Londo)

Hera to Olympus, do you copy?

LONDO (O.S.)

(through the radio)

Olympus reads you loud and clear.

CLEITO

(to Londo)

Squadron holding and awaiting your signal.

LONDO (O.S.)

(through the radio)

Copy that, stand by.

IN THE APC

Marduk follows Cleito's voice and Londo smirks.

LONDO

(into the mic)

Looks like somebody wanted to tell you something.

Londo turns to Marduk and cocks his head towards the mic.

MARDUK

(into the mic - timid)

Good hunting... Cleito.

(a beat)

CLEITO (O.S.)

(through the radio -
equally timid)

You too...Marduk.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - BRIDGE

The Kieran crew sits at the controls, monitoring the screens when--

A blip reveals the Atlantian ships approaching.

KIERAN HELMSMAN #2

(into the mic)

Code red! Code red! Atlantians approaching!

EXT. KIERAN CAMP

The ship's hangar door opens and all the Kieran fighter craft fly out.

On the ground, a door opens and Kieran troops march out and take defensive positions.

IN THE SKY

Atlantian and Kieran fighter craft clash as they fire and destroy each other.

The Atlantians are better pilots and have more maneuverable ships.

One by one, the Kieran ships are blown out of the sky.

ON THE GROUND

Atlantian troops clash with the Kierans.

An Atlantian fires three rounds into a Kieran's chest, but his armor takes most of the damage. The Kieran soldier picks up the Atlantian by the neck and tears his throat out.

Londo sees this and stares in disbelief.

LONDO

(to Brasidas)

Order the troops to aim for the head!

Brasidas is locked in combat with a Kieran. The Kieran has Brasidas by the neck and slams him against a tree.

KIERAN SOLDIER

(to Brasidas)

Your skull will be a great trophy.

Brasidas fumbles for his dagger...

BRASIDAS

Not today.

...and plunges it up through the Kieran's gullet.

BRASIDAS

(to the troops)

Aim for the head and use those daggers,
men!

A Kieran lunges at an Atlantian, just as he fires right between the Kieran's eyes -- dropping him dead on the ground.

Amidst all the chaos, Marduk sneaks into the

KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - CORRIDOR

That is guarded by a sentry. Beyond the sentry, he can hear the echoing moans of his people.

He hides and makes a sound like a mouse, catching the sentry's attention, who comes over to investigate.

When he doesn't find Marduk and goes to return to his post, Marduk buries his sword in the sentry's neck.

The sentry drops and dies, gurgling.

IN THE HOLDING AREA

The sound of the door being unlocked, throws everyone into a panic until they see--

Marduk, wearing the Kieran's bloody armor and panting, motioning for them to escape.

IN DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

The sounds of fighting can be heard as he holds Mina's hands.

MINA

Are you sure this is what you want?

(a beat)

We will lose the battle for sure.

DRAGOLA

If we are cured, we can begin the road to peace.

Mina nods and caresses his face.

MINA

Alright, my love.

He presses a few buttons and the Particle regenerator powers up as the activation button lights up.

DRAGOLA

Every Kieran wearing their armor will be affected.

Dragola moves to his bed, where his armor lays and puts it on.

DRAGOLA

Now we are ready...

Suddenly, the door opens and Stibor and his conspirators rush in, grabbing Mina and holding Dragola at gun point.

KIERAN MAJOR

(to Mina)

Forgive me, your highness.

DRAGOLA

What is the meaning of this?!

STIBOR

I will not let you lose the war for us.

With lightning speed, Dragola disarms the Colonel who holds his gun at Dragola, and tears his throat out, but the major readies to kill Mina -- stopping Dragola in his tracks.

STIBOR

Such speed, such strength...

(a beat)

And you want to take it all away from us?

DRAGOLA

What good is all this power if there is no peace?

IN THE SKY

The Atlantian fighters have taken control of the sky as the last Kieran fighter falls to the ground in flames.

IN CLEITO'S SHIP

CLEITO

(into the mic - excited)

Hera One to Olympus, the sky is clear. All leeches have been neutralized.

LONDO (O.S.)

(through the speaker - urgent)

That's great, but could we get some air support here?

On her screen, she sees the Atlantians are being overrun by the Kierans.

CLEITO

(into the mic)

Hera One to pantheon squadron, target Kieran ground forces!

EXT. KIERAN CAMP

Kierans throw and kill Atlantians left and right as the Atlantian squadron dives into the tree line, strafing the Kieran onslaught.

Several hundred Kierans drop dead, but hundreds more keep coming.

The Atlantian squadron prepares for another run.

IN CLEITO'S SHIP

LONDO (O.S.)
 (through the speaker)
 Fire at will! I repeat fire at
 will!

CLEITO
 (to Londo)
 We can't! We'll hit our troops as well!

In the background, Cleito can hear Atlantians dying.

CLEITO
 (to the squadron)
 We better get in that fight or we won't
 have anybody left!

ATLANTIAN PILOT (O.S.)
 (through the speaker)
 But you heard the captain--

CLEITO
 (into the mic)
 We land and fight!

ATLANTIAN PILOT (O.S.)
 Aye, commander.

HARKARIAN CAMP

Gorgias and the rest of the Harkarians watch in fear as the
 sounds of war echo through the trees.

Xan clenches her jaws in anger, stands up, and picks up an
 Atlantian dagger, left behind.

GORGIAS
 Xan, put that down.

She regards her grandfather and the rest of the Harkarians.

XANTHIPPE
 (calling out)
 We have lived in peace because we were
 under the protection of the Atlantian
 armada.
 (a beat)
 But those screams and explosions are
 them...dying.

Concerned mumbles from the crowd.

XANTHIPPE

If we do not help them now, there is no
chance they will win.

MADRAS

This is blasphemy!
(a beat) Gorgias,
control your
granddaughter.

XANTHIPPE

On our planet, perhaps... but not here.
(a beat)
If we are to survive, we must fight!

The mumbling gets louder and turns into arguing.

XANTHIPPE

(calling out)
Who's with me?

A beat.

Then--

NIX

I'm with you.

GORGIAS

Nix, no.

But Nix stands beside his sister. Then, the bullies and the rest
of the young Harkarians (15-30), side with Xanthippe.

There is a clear division between young and old.

XANTHIPPE

(to the older generation)
This is our home now. And we will
help protect it at all costs.

The young Harkarians cheer and rally.

IN THE KIERAN CAMP - AFTERNOON

The fight is all around the Kieran mothership as three Atlantians
die for every Kieran.

Then, Cleito and pilots charge the Kierans, pushing them back.

Cleito, armed with a sabre, slashes, parries, dodges, and slashes through Kierans as she runs toward Londo. Londo is bleeding and bruised, but still fighting.

CLEITO

Captain!

As Londo looks, a Kieran lunges at him. Cleito throws her sabre, piercing the Kieran's breast plate, and dropping him dead at Londo's feet.

LONDO

(dazed)

Commander...

(a beat)

We cannot hold the line.

He nods to Brasidas who lies dead a few feet away. Cleito looks from Brasidas to Londo.

She slaps him across the face.

CLEITO

(angry)

You *will* hold the line even if you are the last one left!

(a beat)

We make our final stand, here.

Londo nods in understanding and they turn to face the Kieran onslaught.

Just then, a rock sails through the air, hitting a Kieran in the face. Then another, and another.

Xan, Nix and the entire Harkarian people charge out of the brush with sticks and rocks.

The Kierans run at the Harkarians, but crash into an electrified force field.

Behind the charging Harkarians, Gorgias pushes buttons and moves levers on a machine.

He and Cleito lock eyes. Gorgias smiles and nods.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Dragola and Stibor are still in the middle of their standoff.

Stibor moves towards the button and pushes it, but nothing happens.

DRAGOLA

A fail-safe, in case of a coup like this.

Stibor smiles and moves to Mina. With one of his sharp claws, he nicks her neck, spilling a few drops of blood onto his finger.

Dragola roars in anger, but the major threatens to kill Mina.

STIBOR

Careful, your highness. You don't want to end up a widower again.

With his bloody finger, he presses the button, activating the machine.

STIBOR

I know you better than you know yourself.

Dragola drops his head in defeat as the hatch above opens and the machine powers up.

EXT. KIERAN CAMP - EVENING

The battle rages on as the bolts of electricity-like energy engulf the battlefield.

Suddenly Marduk and the Kierans are suspended in the air and convulse as the energy bolts course through their armor.

Cleito runs over to Gorgias who watches in horror.

CLEITO

What's happening?

GORGIAS

The end, my dear. The end.

Suddenly, there is a loud explosion that echoes from the Kieran ship. Marduk and the Kierans drop to the ground.

The Kierans are stronger than ever, and can fly. They climb into the sky and dive towards the Atlantians.

Londo drops his head and weapon, resigning himself to die.

Suddenly, Marduk begins to glow bright like the sun and floats up.

The Kieran armor he wears, falls to the ground as he faces the entire Kieran horde.

He lets out a deafening scream, causing him to shine as bright as the sun.

The flying Kierans scream in pain as they begin to burn up in the light.

The Harkarians, humans, and Atlantians, all watch in awe as the Kierans turn to ashes.

INT. KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

The machine is a burnt heap of metal. Everyone is unconscious on the floor.

Smoke creates a haze in the beam of sunlight that comes through the hatch above.

The major lies dead, having taken most of the blast to his back. Underneath him, Mina stirs -- a few cuts and bruises.

Through a cracked monitor, Stibor lifts his head in time to see -
-

Marduk annihilate the remaining Kieran forces.

STIBOR

This cannot be...

A ray of sunlight hits the ground where the major's corpse has landed. It slowly starts to bubble, until it catches fire.

STIBOR

(shocked)

But it was supposed to make us stronger...

KIERAN GENERAL

(to Stibor)

It also made us vulnerable to the light,
you fool.

The general stands up, adjusts his armor and salutes Dragola.

KIERAN GENERAL

Forgive me, your highness. I failed you.

He limps into the light and bursts into flames, leaving only his armor and ashes.

Now just the three of them remain as Dragola turns his attention to Stibor.

A moment of tension as the two stare each other down with bared fangs.

They lunge at each other, flying in the air, throwing each other across the room.

Stibor produces his dagger and plunges it into Dragola's gut, causing him to howl in pain.

STIBOR

(laughing)

The age of the Dracul is over.

Stibor picks him up and throws him at the wall where the family crest hangs.

Dragola catches his breath and exchanges a sad glance with Mina.

He removes the dagger and with unexpected agility, flies over Stibor and plunges the dagger in his back.

Stibor howls as the tip of the blade juts out of his left breast plate.

Bleeding and heaving, Stibor turns in disbelief as Dragola pulls the dagger out.

DRAGOLA

You condemned me to darkness...

(a beat)

For this, I will strike your name from our history.

Stibor's eyes grow wide with anger. Dragola cuts his head off before he can say another word.

Mina, crawls into the light as Dragola runs to her to pick her up, but the light burns his hand - he recoils in pain.

He lowers his head in sadness.

EXT. KIERAN CAMP

The Atlantians, Harkarians, and Marduk cheer at their victory.

Gorgias and Cleito shake hands.

LONDO

Thank you. Without your help, we would have surely perished.

GORGIAS

Thank my granddaughter. She is the first Harkarian warrior.

Londo regards Xan, who blushes.

LONDO

Well done.

A beat.

GORGIAS

(to Londo)

We are stuck here forever, aren't we?

Londo nods sadly.

LONDO

Where will you go?

GORGIAS

I believe we will follow the river Marduk calls, "The Nile," south. We will rebuild our society there. One that reveres the stars, science...

XANTHIPPE

And our ability to defend ourselves.

The Harkarians nod in agreement.

GORGIAS

(to Londo)

And you?

LONDO

We will return to our ship, where we will use the hydrothermal energy to restore life support systems.

(a beat)

Eventually, we will build a colony, in the off chance we are rescued.

Gorgias looks around at all the destruction.

GORGIAS

(re: The Kierans)

Do you think there are any left?

Londo shrugs.

LONDO

They're broken and have no way to reproduce.
(a beat - bitter)
Let them die slowly.

KIERAN MOTHER SHIP - DRAGOLA'S CHAMBER

Dragola takes Mina's hands in his and kisses her deeply.

MINA

(sobbing)
But I want to be with *you*, my love.

DRAGOLA

I am bound to the darkness. Where I will
go, you cannot follow.

MINA

Please...

DRAGOLA

There is a city not far from here. With
all the chaos, your origins will not be
questioned. Go there and live.

She shakes her head. Now Dragola's eyes burn red as he throws
what's left of the regenerator at the wall.

DRAGOLA

Go!

Mina cries and runs out of the room as Dragola falls to his knees
-- crying silently.

EXT. HIGH WALLED CITY - NIGHT

The city streets are illuminated with oil lamps, as men work to
rebuild the walls.

In the town square, an idol of Marduk is being finished as people
bow in prayer to it.

Marduk, now draped in royal robes and jewels, is escorted on a
chariot through the city and stops in front of his idol.

The people turn to see him and throw themselves at his feet in
reverence. Among them is Mina, who looks up at him in defiance.

One of the remaining temple priests sees this and picks her out of the crowd and drags her, screaming towards the idol -- sacrificial knife in hand.

The people cheer and sing praise to Marduk. The priest's knife comes down with a killing blow, but disintegrates in the priest's hand.

MARDUK

Enough!

The scared priest lets go of Mina and all the people throw themselves on the ground -- silent.

She and Marduk exchange a knowing glance.

MARDUK

(disgusted)

Life is precious...

He undoes his robes and jewels and tosses the crown to the ground.

MARDUK

(angry)

...have you learned nothing?

They all stare at him -- scared and silent.

He sighs and flies away.

MESOPOTAMIAN HILLSIDE

In the forest, Marduk watches from a distance as the lights from the city illuminate the darkened valley and music echoes against the mountainside.

CLEITO (O.C.)

Don't feel like celebrating?

Marduk jumps and sees --

Cleito standing next to him.

MARDUK

How did you...

She holds up a machine that resembles a Geiger counter.

CLEITO

(chuckling)
Your energy signature.
(a beat)
You're truly one of a kind.

He smiles sadly.

MARDUK
I don't belong there. Not anymore.

A beat.

CLEITO
You can always come with us.

He turns to look at her and they kiss.

EXT. ROMANIAN FOREST

A group of hunters, dressed in animal furs, roast a carcass over a fire.

One of them stands as he tells a story.

ROMANIAN HUNTER #1
...and then, the evil god descended
the heavens and came to live in these
very woods.

The other men gasp.

ROMANIAN HUNTER #2
(laughing)
Those are women's stories to keep the
children from straying from camp.

ROMANIAN HUNTER #3
I heard the evil god drains you of
blood, and if you're *truly* unlucky,
he turns you into a creature of
darkness like himself.

Hunter #2 laughs even harder, lifting his spear.

ROMANIAN HUNTER #2
(laughing heartily)
There is nothing I cannot kill with this.

Suddenly, two red eyes burn bright red.

DRAGOLA (O.C.)

Oh? Let's see.

Before Hunter #2 can turn and scream, Dragola flies out of the darkness, grabs the man and disappears.

The other hunters sit frozen as they hear the hunter's scream echo in the night.

THE END