

THE STAR LEAGUE

A SCREENPLAY

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THE STAR LEAGUE

20 years after Earthman Alex Rogan took to the stars and saved the galaxy by becoming the last starfighter, he once again becomes caught up in the middle of a new battle for galactic peace.

Once a starfighter, always a starfighter.

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FADE IN -- EXT. SPACE -- PLANET RYLOS

CREDITS BEGIN

Rylos is the home planet of the RYLANS, founders and managers of the Star League, a community of peaceful planets and races who have built a protective sphere around them called the Frontier.

We move away from Rylos, it becoming smaller. We swing around 180 degrees, jumping into star drive and the stars become blurry lines. The credits continue and some warpy effects swirl around.

We come out of star drive and into normal space, passing the planets of our solar system, from Pluto inwards. We begin to slow down as we pass the asteroid belt and Mars, then the moon and finally slow right down to Earth. It starts to fill the screen as the camera slowly rotates.

EXT. EARTH -- SUBURBIA -- DUSK

A suburban street. We move up towards ALEX's house, up the driveway.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- LOUNGEROOM -- DUSK

We move around the room, looking at various photos of ALEX, GRIG, CENTAURI, MAGGIE, a BABY becoming a young boy. We end on ALEX, dressed in t-shirt and shorts, sleeping barefooted in a chair with a newspaper on his chest. JOLLY the dog sleeps next to him on the floor.

The phone RINGS. JOLLY awakens and looks up at his master. ALEX awakens, groaning and reaching for the phone.

ALEX

Hello?

MAGGIE

(from phone)

Hey babe, what you doing?

ALEX clears his groggy throat.

ALEX

Oh, I was just cleaning the lounge.

MAGGIE

(from phone)

Oh yeah (sarcastically). Listen, I'm going to be late home from work tonight. Can you cook dinner?

ALEX

Sure.

MAGGIE

(from phone)

Great! I'll see you later then.

ALEX

OK, bye.

ALEX puts the phone down and rubs his eyes, stretches.

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INT. KITCHEN -- DUSK

ALEX walks in, looks around, opens the fridge. He starts checking off ingredients for pasta.

ALEX
Great, no mushrooms or meat.

ALEX looks at the JOLLY the dog.

ALEX
Feel like a walk, boy?

EXT. SUPERMARKET -- NIGHTFALL

ALEX is walking JOLLY to the local supermarket, ties him up outside and goes in.

INT. SUPERMARKET -- MOMENT LATER

ALEX is walking down the isles with a basket, selecting items. Our P.O.V. is hand-held, moving closer to him, as if someone is walking towards him.

BETA
(in Rylan language)
Hello.

ALEX spins around to see a bald man wearing an old '80s style jacket and jeans.

ALEX
Ahh...

BETA
Are you Alex Rogan? (in Rylan language)
(beat)
You are Alex Rogan? (in broken English language)

ALEX
Yes?

BETA
Someone waits outside for you.

ALEX is studying him.

ALEX
I know this might sound strange, but are you from another planet?

BETA
Correct. I am also an android.

ALEX is stunned.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CARPARK -- NIGHT

ALEX is following BETA. He stops to untie JOLLY and catches up. They head to a waiting starcar and ALEX recognises it.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CARPARK -- STARCAR -- NIGHT

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The starcar is very shiney, very clean and futuristic. We are close against the rear door as it opens. We cut away just before we can see the driver.

Angle on ALEX peering in as the door finishes opening. The door stops, ALEX is reluctant. JOLLY is waiting. CIRRUS speaks but we are still looking at ALEX.

CIRRUS (O.S.)

Alex, step into my office!

ALEX slowly gets in, sits just inside the starcar. JOLLY waits outside on the leash. BETA keeps a lookout.

INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

CIRRUS

You're probably wondering what's going on.

ALEX

Well, yeah. Where's Centari?

CIRRUS

The name's Cirrus! And you've already met Beta.

ALEX regards BETA. But there's something familiar about CIRRUS.

ALEX

So what's happening?

CIRRUS

Your questions will be answered on Rylos, my boy.

ALEX

Rylos!?

CIRRUS

Yes, you do remember?

ALEX

Of course!

Suddenly there is a flash and sound!

EXT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

A laser blast sparks against the side of the starcar.

Frightened, JOLLY jumps into the starcar.

INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

BETA leans in, touches ALEX and there is a flash and shock between them.

CIRRUS is busy starting the vehicle.

EXT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

BETA runs off as the starcar's door closes and the engines spool up.

INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

ALEX is confused and worried.

ALEX

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What was that!?

EXT. CAR PARK -- NIGHT

Two XURIAN HITBEASTS come out of the dark nearby and take cover. One leans on a dumpster and takes aim.

INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

CIRRUS is driving towards the car park exit. He is busy punching buttons and ALEX is getting worried.

CIRRUS
They must have found you already!

ALEX
Who found me!?

CIRRUS
Xurian hitbeasts.

ALEX
Xurian? Isn't Xur dead!?

EXT. CARPARK -- NIGHT

The starcar quickly drives out of the carpark and onto the road, taking another hit on the rear. It causes small chaos as it joins the traffic.

Other road users are astonished by the odd-looking futuristic vehicle. A car-load of homeboys spot it.

HOMEY ONE
Yo, Teep, check out dat sleek ride, man.

HOMEY TWO
Woo, maybe Japanese or European, yo bro?

EXT. ROADWAY -- NIGHT

The starcar pulls away in front of the traffic at tremendous speed.

INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

ALEX and JOLLY are being thrown around in the back as CIRRUS drives.

CIRRUS
Hold on back there!

CIRRUS hits a switch above his head.

EXT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

Panels open and fold away on the rear of the vehicle, exposing engine thrust nozzles. They begin to softly glow with new sounds.

EXT. ROADWAY -- NIGHT

The starcar roars up an exit ramp that goes upwards.

Its engines ignite!

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INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

ALEX is pulled back in their seats as the vehicle accelerates even more. He wraps his arm around JOLLY.

ALEX

(to JOLLY)
Hold on, boy!

EXT. ROADWAY -- NIGHT

The starcar leaves the exit ramp and launches into the air, climbing steadily away from the Earth.

INT. STARCAR -- NIGHT

Looking out the front cockpit windows, clouds begin to drift by as CIRRUS pilots the vehicle up towards the sky.

EXT. SPACE -- EARTH

The starcar climbs up towards the camera, the planet in the B.G., passing and we pan as it flies out to space.

INT. STARCAR

CIRRUS is busy preparing for the jump to star drive. The engines wind down and ALEX and JOLLY relax.

ALEX

So, you gonna tell me about Xur?

CIRRUS

Yes, Alex. When you attacked Xur's warship, he managed to slip away in an escape pod during all the commotion.

ALEX

(thinking)
Twenty years ago?

CIRRUS

Yes. He has returned with a loyal force that threatens the Star League and intergalactic peace.

ALEX

I see. So why am I here?

CIRRUS

We learnt that Xur sent a scout ship to Earth to capture you, as a trophy. I was sent to get you off your planet. But you can bet your asteroids the lazy spacebugs were alerted to my mission and followed me instead.

ALEX

What about my family?

CIRRUS

No need to worry, Alex. Beta's taking care of your affairs on Earth as we speak. Now entering star drive.

ALEX appears worried.

ALEX

(sarcastically)

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Great.

EXT. SPACE -- STARCAR

The starcar enters star drive.

EXT. FIELD -- NIGHT

BETA is running and panting. His physical appearance has changed strangely and he is still transforming. He looks like a weird-looking ALEX. The two XURIAN HITBEASTS are chasing him, firing a shot that hits the ground nearby. BETA eyes an approaching large truck rolling along the highway nearby the field. He runs across the road. The HITBEASTS are on the other side of the road, waiting to get across through the traffic. Firing a shot into the wheels, Beta watches the truck swerve and run over the HITBEASTS.

The truck comes to a stop and the driver gets out to inspect what appears to be a blown tyre.

BETA

Oh boy.

BETA holds his breath as he scans the scene for any survivors. The HITBEASTS appear to be finished, so he catches his breath and walks slowly off in another direction.

EXT. SPACE -- STARCAR

The starcar is cruising in star drive. The stars are blurred lines as it passes the camera. It drops out of star drive and into normal space.

INT. STARCAR -- COCKPIT

CIRRUS brings the microphone to his mouth and speaks Rylan. He is requesting landing clearance. A Rylan voice speaks back to him from the radio, clearing him for landing.

ALEX looks out the window at the beautiful planet. JOLLY takes a look as well, panting, happy.

EXT. RYLOS -- HORIZON -- NIGHT

The planet spins and tilts slowly below us as the starcar zooms into frame and away from us, descends down.

EXT. RYLOS -- LAND -- NIGHT

The land blurs past us at speed as the starcar overtakes us and heads toward a landing bay entrance.

EXT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- LANDING BAY

CIRRUS sets down the starcar and the doors open. CIRRUS climbs out, followed by ALEX. A maintenance crew start moving in and securing the vehicle.

CIRRUS

You'll have to leave your pet in the shuttle for now,
Alex.

ALEX

Oh right.

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ALEX tells JOLLY to stay and he obeys. The rear door closes but the side window is slightly open, so he can breathe. ALEX and CIRRUS walk off towards buildings.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- CORRIDOR

ALEX is bewildered by all the people and technology of Rylos, looking around everywhere as they walk. Rylan dialog is spoken over the loudspeaker in the background. CIRRUS hands him a universal translator button.

CIRRUS

Here, put this on.

ALEX

Ahh, thanks, makes life a lot easier around here.

ALEX applies the button to his collar and it beeps, he stops to listen for the change, and it instantly switches from Rylan language to English. He catches up to CIRRUS, who has stopped and turned around.

CIRRUS

Alex, you must stay close. Unfortunately, there are Xurian sympathisers inside the Star League who may attempt to harm you.

ALEX gulps and becomes a little nervous.

ALEX

Okay.

They walk on.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- CONFERENCE ROOM

ALEX and CIRRUS walk into a conference room with a large meeting table, that overlooks the busy command center itself, Star League officers busy with their station duties. ALEX is watching them when the PRESIDENT walks in with some EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT

Alex! I can't express how good it is that you're here with us once more.

ALEX

(politely)
Ahh, nice to be here.

PRESIDENT greets ALEX and they all sit down.

PRESIDENT

Sorry to have suddenly wisped you off Earth like that but it was crucial that we found you before Xur did.

ALEX

And I'm glad you did.

PRESIDENT

Very well.
(beat)
Alex, Xur survived our last victory many yardons ago and has been building a new force to break apart the peace we

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have long-established in this galaxy.

PRESIDENT hits a few switches on his control panel on the table and a large screen comes alive with the Star League logo behind him. All eyes turn to the screen as PRESIDENT gets up and explains. An animation of the Frontier displays, portraying PRESIDENT's words.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Twelve rotations ago, Xur injected a Frontier module with a computer virus. The virus has been spreading throughout the vast network and we estimate that collapse is now only 2 rotations away.

ALEX reacts and listens.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Star League scientists have been trying to stop or slow the virus without success. All we can do now is to find a way to stop Xur before or after he passes through the Frontier unchallenged.

(beat, turns to ALEX)

Alex, now that you're here, we need you. We need the greatest starfighter that ever served in the Star League.

ALEX wasn't expecting that. He reacts humbly, looks around the rooms at everyone's faces.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Will you help us, Alex?

ALEX thinks.

ALEX

I .. I don't know.

PRESIDENT

You would be such a strong boost for our wounded force.

ALEX

What about the squadrons of Gunstars and pilots I trained?

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

Our fleet is constantly being reduced by Xur's sneak attacks and efforts to bring in supplies for repairs are being sabotaged by sympathisers.

PRESIDENT

It is a desperate situation.

ALEX thinks.

ALEX

I can't. I made promises that I would stay away from intergalactic space battles.

PRESIDENT sighs and looks at his officers.

PRESIDENT

There's something else. Your old friend Grig has been captured.

ALEX is startled and saddened by the statement.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

Grig and a team of starfighters were on a routine patrol

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when they were captured. They are being held in the Xurian prison.

(beat)

It is only a matter of time before Xur reaches Earth. He is a threat to all galaxies.

ALEX thinks for a moment.

ALEX

Alright, count me in.

Joy spreads around the room as ALEX agrees.

PRESIDENT

This is fantastic, Alex!

(beat)

But you must now get some rest. A strategic planning session will start first thing in the morning. Is there anything we can do for you?

ALEX

Well, I was about to have dinner before I left Earth.

PRESIDENT

Cirrus?

CIRRUS takes his cue and everyone gets up and leaves the room. CIRRUS walks to ALEX and says quietly...

CIRRUS

Are you sure you made the right decision, Alex?

ALEX

We'll find out.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- CORRIDOR

CIRRUS and ALEX walk through the corridors heading towards his quarters.

ALEX

So when can I see Centari?

CIRRUS

Alex, I'm afraid I have some more bad news.

(beat)

Centari has passed on to the next dimension.

Alex is sad. CIRRUS puts his hand on his back.

ALEX stops walking, realises what he means and deals with it, understands.

ALEX

When?

CIRRUS

About 3 of your Earth years ago. He was a great man, and a great service to the Star League.

ALEX

Yes.

CIRRUS

He was very fond of you, the "greatest starfighter in the galaxy, and I found him!" he used to say.

(beat)

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Come on.

CIRRUS moves ALEX on, they continue walking.

CIRRUS
I've been carrying on his affairs since he left us. You see, I'm his brother.

ALEX spins around, astonished.

ALEX
I knew it! I knew there was something familiar about you.

CIRRUS
You are very observant.

ALEX
So do you still recruit from Earth?

CIRRUS
Ohh, no. Star League regulations strictly . . .

Suddenly there are ALARMS blaring away. The P.A. comes alive.

P.A.
Alien intruder alert in sector nine, alien intruder alert!
Security to sector nine!

ALEX and CIRRUS stand awkwardly as they listen and then react.

CIRRUS
Quick, Alex! That's close, could be an inside Xurian attack.

ALEX and CIRRUS start running further down the corridors as a SECURITY TEAM can be heard running up closer to them. There is laser rifle fire and ALEX looks back down as he runs. He spots something and stops.

ALEX
Wait!

CIRRUS is worried, grabs his arm. ALEX won't move. The SECURITY TEAM get nearer.

SECURITY OFFICER 1
There it goes! Stop it!

A SECURITY OFFICER fires and misses a running and panting JOLLY. JOLLY is too quick. Another OFFICER fires and misses. ALEX starts coming back.

ALEX
Wait! Hold your fire! Don't shoot!

ALEX runs down the corridor towards JOLLY and they meet. ALEX is stroking him and telling him it's okay. CIRRUS calms down the SECURITY OFFICERS, who look annoyed.

CIRRUS
It's okay, it's his pet. You can return to your stations.

ALEX and CIRRUS continue walking on as the SECURITY TEAM moves off in the other direction and disband. One suspicious-looking OFFICER waits and lets others pass. When they are gone, he looks back at ALEX and eyes him curiously before

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going off in another direction.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- CORRIDOR -- ALEX'S QUARTERS

CIRRUS and ALEX come to ALEX's old quarters. ALEX opens it.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- ALEX'S QUARTER

From inside, ALEX, JOLLY and CIRRUS cast shadows over the flooring as they start to walk inside. ALEX presses some controls and the lights come on.

ALEX
My god, it hasn't been touched!

The room is a reflection of mid-80s culture.

CIRRUS
Of course not, this little part of Rylos is yours.
(beat, as ALEX enters the room)
Still hungry, Alex?

ALEX
Oh yeah. What's on the menu?

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT

MAGGIE drives up into the driveway and gets out of her car.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- ENTRY HALL -- NIGHT

MAGGIE walks in and slips off her shoes, chucks down her bags and keys.

MAGGIE
I'm home!

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- LOUNGE -- NIGHT

A sci-fi show is playing on the television as MAGGIE walks in and finds MAXY watching it. MAXY is an 11 year old boy doing his homework in front of the TV.

MAGGIE
Hey sweetie, have you seen daddy?

MAXY
No, mommy. But look.

MAGGIE takes the note from MAXY and reads it as she walks into the kitchen.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- NIGHT

MAGGIE reads the note: WALKING JOLLY TO GET STUFF FOR DINNER -- 5:22 PM.
MAGGIE looks at the clock and it reads 6:54 PM. MAGGIE opens the back door, goes outside and calls JOLLY -- no dog comes running in. She tries to phone ALEX on the mobile but it says, "out of range or switched off." She sighs and looks up at the stars in frustration. We pan up above her to see a beautiful starfield.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN HOMEWORLD

It looks like a dark version of Earth. Two Xurian fighters fly from behind the camera towards it.

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EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- XURIAN FORTRESS -- DAY

XUR's fortress is a very militaristic-looking black and grey structure. It features landing pads, lookouts, sensors and guards. A shuttle is escorted towards it by two fighters on either side which bank off as the shuttle lands on a pad.

EXT. XURIAN FORTRESS -- LANDING BAY -- DAY

A XURIAN COMMANDER walks briskly from the shuttle to the entrance, gives a salute signal to the GUARDS who allow him to pass.

INT. XURIAN FORTRESS -- WALKWAY -- DAY

The XURIAN COMMANDER walks along a catwalk that overlooks a command centre and approaches XUR's chamber.

EXT. XUR'S CHAMBER -- DAY

The XURIAN COMMANDER presses a button that summons XUR. The door opens and the XURIAN COMMANDER walks in.

INT. XUR'S CHAMBER -- DAY

XUR lying down on a meditation table in a corner centre of the room, eyes closed, holding a chrome sceptre across his chest.

XUR

Why do you disturb my meditation?

XURIAN COMMANDER

My lord, we have lost contact with the Earth scouts.

XUR

Both of them?

XURIAN COMMANDER

Both of them are not responding. But ..

XUR sighs, opens his eyes, sits up and looks at XURIAN COMMANDER. It causes XURIAN COMMANDER to pause.

XUR

Yes?

XURIAN COMMANDER

There has been another report of humanoid Alex Rogan sighted on Rylos, in the Star League Command Centre.

This causes XUR to perk up. He stands up.

XUR

The Rylan shuttle seen on Earth is too much of a coincidence, this time. He is on Rylos. Prepare the fleet immediately.

XURIAN COMMANDER

Yes, my lord.

XURIAN COMMANDER pays his respects and turns, leaves. The doors close behind him and then we see XUR give us the subtlest of smiles.

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INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- ALEX'S QUARTERS

The light is on, Oh Yeah by Yello plays from an old 1980s portable "boombox." Photos of ALEX, MAGGIE, CENTARI and GRIG are strewn across the bed, a plate of eaten food is on the bed next to a sleeping ALEX. JOLLY is sleeping on the floor.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

BETA arrives home. He gets to the door and rings the doorbell. MAGGIE answers with worry.

MAGGIE
Where have you been, Alex!

BETA isn't sure what to say.

MAGGIE (CON'T)
Where's Jolly?

BETA
Jolly? I .. had some problems.

MAGGIE
Have you lost your house keys?

BETA
Correct.

MAGGIE is annoyed.

MAGGIE
Oh god, Alex. What happened?

BETA comes into the house.

BETA
I'm not sure, it's a bit of a blur.

MAGGIE
Were you robbed, are you alright? Do you have your wallet?

BETA
Everything's fine.

MAGGIE
No, it's not. Are you sure you're alright? Should I call the police?

ALEX
Do not call the police, I am fine.

MAGGIE
I better go look for Jolly, you stay here with Max.

BETA
Max?

MAGGIE
Think you can do that? There's some dinner in the oven.

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Before BETA can answer, MAGGIE gets her keys, closes the door and drives off.

BETA walks through the house, sees MAX and avoids him, goes upstairs to the bedroom. The clock reads 9:45 PM.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

The clock reads 10:35 PM. BETA is sitting on the bed in the dark. He hears a car drive up, the door close, someone come home and then MAGGIE comes into the room and switches on the light and sees him.

MAGGIE
I didn't find him.

BETA
Okay.

MAGGIE looks at him strangely.

MAGGIE
What are you doing?

BETA
Nothing. Resting.

MAGGIE
Well, can you check the pound in the morning?
(beat, BETA doesn't answer)
What happened tonight?

BETA gets up and walks out of the room. MAGGIE sighs.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- ALEX'S QUARTERS -- MORNING

ALEX is sleeping. The doorbell rings. JOLLY reacts, ALEX doesn't. It rings again. It startles him awake and he realises where he is, sees JOLLY.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- ALEX'S QUARTERS -- CORRIDOR -- MORNING

CIRRUS is waiting for ALEX. The door opens, revealing a very drowsy ALEX with messed up hair.

CIRRUS
Good morning, Alex!

ALEX
Hey, Cyril.

ALEX rubs his eyes.

CIRRUS
Cirrus. We have an important meeting to attend, are you ready?

ALEX
Ahh, yeah. Just give me a few minutes.

ALEX shuts the door in CIRRUS's face.

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INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- CONFERENCE ROOM

Many STAR LEAGUE OFFICERS and ALIENS are seated around the conference table, discussing things amongst themselves as ALEX and CIRRUS walk in and sit.

PRESIDENT

Shall we begin?

Everyone quietens.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

It seems certain that Xur will no doubt soon bring great devastation against the Star League. Our forces, and our hope, seem almost exhausted. It is time we act to ensure that peace remains in this galaxy.

(beat)

What is the latest intelligence on the Xurian sector?

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

Defensive capabilities remain strong around the Xurian homeworld. Constant orbital patrols, planetary defence platforms and there is the Xurian warship, Abhor, which remains in orbit over the Xurian fortress.

PRESIDENT

What is the status of our star fleet?

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2

We have eighteen gunstars, three command ships and four transports.

PRESIDENT

Status on Grig and the others?

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

Our spies indicate that they are still in the Xurian prison complex.

PRESIDENT

Hmm, I fear that any strike we launch may bring repercussions against them.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

It would be near impossible to even get close to the planet, let alone stage an attempt to extract them.

ALEX

We can't just leave them there while we blow up everything around them.

Everyone agrees and thinks.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

Well our starfighters can launch immediately. The only caution is a large asteroid that will be moving through close to their homeworld, in half a rotation.

ALEX

That's it!

PRESIDENT

Alex?

ALEX

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Can we use the asteroid as cover, get in close and catch them by surprise?

PRESIDENT

Interesting!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

He's right. The asteroid may mask us and block Xurian scopes. We could get close and take out key communications and planetary defence platforms.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2

Then all that's left are the Xurian warship and their fighters, and they will be delayed.

PRESIDENT

It would give us a good chance to knock a hole in their numbers. This is what we've been waiting for!

ALEX smiles humbly.

CIRRUS

What about the hostages?

PRESIDENT

You must instruct the starfighters to keep their fire away from the prison. An extraction team could go in and attempt to take over and rescue them.

(beat, turns to ALEX)

Alex, consider your starfighter status reactivated.

ALEX

Thank you, but I'd like to be on the rescue team.

PRESIDENT

Alex, you're a starfighter. You're more important in the seat of a Gunstar. You may be human, but you're also a Star League officer.

ALEX

I haven't flown a gunstar for 20 years! I owe it to Grig to help get 'em out of there.

PRESIDENT thinks it over, reluctantly agrees.

PRESIDENT

Very well, you may be on the command ship. But we still need your starfighter experience, Alex.

ALEX

Yes, sir!

PRESIDENT

Okay, full mission briefing will be in thirty tocks down on the launch bay. Good luck, everyone.

The crowd stand and leave the room. ALEX stares out at the busy command centre below and CIRRUS comes up behind him.

ALEX

Part of me can't believe that I'm really here, doing this. I've missed the old times, but I'm also afraid of what is coming.

CIRRUS

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If we fail, it will be the end of the Star League and galactic peace.

ALEX

I know.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- ORBIT

The great Xurian warship Abhor is docked in orbit over Xur's planet. A shuttle flies up from the planet and approaches the warship, slips into a landing bay.

INT. XURIAN WARSHIP -- LANDING BAY

The shuttle lands and XUR steps out of it, meets his command crew, escorted by a small group of guards. They walk through the corridors toward the bridge.

XUR

Is the force ready to move out?

XURIAN COMMANDER

Yes, my lord. The Abhor is prepped and awaiting your command. The planetary assault force is loaded. Seventy-five percent of the fighter fleet are holding in formation nearby. As you instructed.

XUR

Excellent.

The group arrive on the bridge and XUR sits in the command chair.

XUR

Signal the fighters. Take us to the Frontier!

The helmsman presses switches and slides the throttle.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- ORBIT

The warship fires its engines and breaks orbit. It gloriously moves over the camera and into the starfield.

INT. XURIAN WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR has an evil grin as the sound of the engines whir up around the bridge. The camera moves in towards him, giving the effect he is moving forward.

EXT. SPACE

The warship moves in from behind the camera, gaining speed and followed by a large group of fighters. The fleet enter star drive as the music soars.

INT. STAR LEAGUE BASE -- LAUNCH BAY

Starfighters are dressed in their uniforms, many with helmets on, visors up and are assembled together. All kinds of aliens, and many are slouchy. PRESIDENT comes out of a nearby elevator, ALEX and CIRBUS in tow, and the group stiffen. ALEX is in uniform.

PRESIDENT

Starfighters, we have been given a rare chance to strike at the heart of Xur's terror. Among us is Earthman Alex Rogan, who I am sure needs no introduction.

The group of Starfighters are ready for further instructions. PRESIDENT steps

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aside, motioning to ALEX, who steps forward a little. ALEX is a little humble in his position of authority but soon slips into it as he speaks.

ALEX

Greetings, Starfighters! We have been lucky to have a large asteroid passing by close to the Xurian homeworld. We will use it as cover to block their scopes, sneak in close and surprise them. Our aim is to take out their orbital communications relay and defence platforms, get a good look at installations and inflict any damage we can. (beat)
We'll have heavier ships along for the ride in case of the chance to rescue Star League hostages, so also watch out for them. Good luck to you all.

The PRESIDENT steps forward.

PRESIDENT

Starfighters, you know what to do.
(raises his arm)
Victory or death!

The group return the chant and punch the air.

EVERYONE

Victory or death! Victory or death! Victory or death!

ALEX and CIRRUS stand proud of the warriors. The starfighters start heading out to their Gunstars.

CIRRUS

Take care of yourself, Alex.

ALEX is surprised.

ALEX

You're not coming?

CIRRUS

Oh, why, I'm just a simple businessman.

ALEX

I really wish you were coming with us. I thought we were a team!

CIRRUS

You're a natural Starfighter, Alex! You can do it without me.

ALEX

Centari and Grig made me a Starfighter. I need you there with me, Cirrus. I may be a Starfighter, but it has been twenty years.

CIRRUS thinks. ALEX shifts on his feet, anxious. CIRRUS gives in.

CIRRUS

Well .. if Centari were here, I'm sure he'd call it the adventure of a lifetime. How can I help?

ALEX retrieves his laser pistol from his side holster.

ALEX

Well, do you know how to use these?

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS

I wouldn't go to Earth without one.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- SHIP LAUNCH CHAMBER

Gunstars are mounted vertically on launch rigs around the walls of the chamber while in the center are the control ships. ALEX and CIRRUS are walking toward the command ship DAYTOM with a group of command officers and the extraction team. They all wear laser sidearms and other tools. They enter the ship, which is now starting up.

INT. DAYTOM

ALEX and CIRRUS strap themselves in as the engines start to stabilize. Suddenly a compartment flies open and gas spurts out. Crew rush over and fix it. ALEX notices, starts to worry.

ALEX

Will this thing get us there in one piece?

DAYTOM CO-PILOT

Yes, sir. You have nothing to worry about. We use it to fly command staff around all the time.

ALEX assumes an authoritative tone.

ALEX

Very good, carry on.

DAYTOM CO-PILOT resumes his tasks.

ALEX gives CIRRUS a funny look, not used to commanding.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- LAUNCH BAY

Turbines and engines whine as all the ships prepare for take off. DAYTOM wobbles up into a hover, swings around and departs out of the chamber doors.

EXT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- LAUNCH BAY EXIT

DAYTOM flies carefully out of the port and then shoots off past the camera and into the sky, climbing.

EXT. SPACE -- RYLOS

DAYTOM continues its ascent up into the stars and flies past the camera into space and beyond.

INT. DAYTOM -- COCKPIT

The pilots are flying the ship. The captain makes a call on his mic.

DAYTOM PILOT

Fleet leader to all ships, formate and prepare for star drive.

ALEX looks out the window. The music rises as we see the entire fleet of 18 Gunstars slowly falling into a formation around the DAYTOM.

ALEX

Oh, boy.

THE STAR LEAGUE

EXT. SPACE

DAYTOM is flanked by the squadron of Gunstars flying behind and around it. They have three colours -- blue squadron, red squadron and black squadron. There are two other control ships. The whole group enter star drive and disappear.

EXT. STREET -- ALEX'S HOUSE -- DAY

Back on Earth, the sun shines and the birds chirp.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- DOORBELL

It rings.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- REAR HALLWAY

BETA's head pops out from around a doorway, hearing the doorbell. He is suspicious.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- FRONT HALL

BETA approaches the door slowly, carefully. He picks up a wooden sculpture as a weapon and peeks outside. It is DELIVERY MAN with a clipboard and FedEx baseball cap. The man knocks on the door. BETA knocks back. The man is puzzled.

DELIVERY MAN

Hello? Anyone home .. FedEx.

EXT. DOOR -- DAY

BETA unlocks and slowly opens the door. He peeks around the corner. The MAN is puzzled by BETA's peculiar behaviour.

BETA

Yes?

DELIVERY MAN

FedEx, sir.

BETA

Thank you, you too.

DELIVERY MAN

Ahh, I've got a delivery for Alex Rogan?

BETA

Okay, please put it down and leave.

DELIVERY MAN

Sure thing, man, but you gotta sign for it.

DELIVERY`MAN offers the clipboard and a pen. BETA's hands stretch around the door and take it, his eyes still peeking around it.

DELIVERY MAN

Please sign your name on the dotted line, sir.

BETA scribbles something down and then hands it back to DELIVERY MAN, who takes it, hands BETA the copy and leaves.

THE STAR LEAGUE

DELIVERY MAN

Thank you, sir, and you have a lovely day!

BETA watches him leave and then examines the parcel. He picks it up and shakes it, then throws it out into some bushes and closes the door as the delivery DELIVERY'MAN goes back to his van in the B.G.

The DOOR. It opens again. BETA's curiosity gets the better of him and he comes out to get it bare-footed. He steps in some dog poo on the way back, and stops, looks down at it.

BETA

Oh, great.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

DELIVERY MAN is getting back into his van across the street. In the B.G. we can see BETA walking back inside the house and closing the door.

INT. VAN -- DAY

DELIVERY MAN is checking off the delivery on his digital assistant, starts the engine, puts it into gear, but pauses because he smells something. He turns around to look back when suddenly a XURIAN HITBEAST grabs him around the neck from behind and morphs with him, taking his shape.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- WINDOW -- DAY

Looking out of the front window from inside, the van suddenly screeches off clumsily as the driver's feet react to the attack.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- BATHROOM -- DAY

BETA's foot fills the frame with water washing over it in the bathtub. He is cleaning the dog poo from his foot. Zoom out to see that he is casually holding it with his hand, having detached it from his ankle. It seems routine as he snaps it back onto his leg and walks off. MAGGIE comes home. BETA quickly checks his foot. He is holding the delivery receipt when he comes out to greet her.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

BETA

Ahh, hello Maggie.

MAGGIE

"Hello Maggie"?

BETA

That is your name, isn't it?

MAGGIE sees the parcel on the table that was just delivered.

MAGGIE

Yes, Alexander. Who's the parcel for?

MAGGIE snatches the delivery receipt from his hand.

MAGGIE

(playfully)
Ah huh! A secret present for another girl!
(notices something)
Hey, did you change your signature?

THE STAR LEAGUE

MAGGIE looks at BETA, who is not doing a good job acting confused by her question. She is realising her thoughts. She steps away from him.

MAGGIE
You're not Alex, are you?

BETA
What do you mean?

MAGGIE
You're behaving so strangely recently. Do the words "beta unit" mean anything to you?

BETA
Beta .. unit? You've lost me, what's that?

ALEX
Oh, come on, Alex! Beta! .. Argh!

BETA's expression turns to resignation.

BETA
Okay, fine .. I give up. It's true. I'm a beta unit.

MAGGIE's mouth drops open.

MAGGIE
Prove it.

BETA
How?

MAGGIE thinks.

MAGGIE
I don't know. Well, last time there were computer bits and wires all hanging out of your stomach.

BETA
That was another replacement unit.

MAGGIE
Whatever!

BETA
Here.

BETA detaches his hand and offers it to her, making her recoil in disgust.

MAGGIE
Well this is just great.. where the hell's Alex?

BETA
Alex .. is up there! On Rylos.

BETA points to the ceiling.

MAGGIE
Again?

BETA
Yes, again.

THE STAR LEAGUE

MAGGIE

What is it this time, Xur's reappeared?

BETA

Replacement units aren't entitled to such information. All I know is I was put here to take care of his affairs while he's away.

MAGGIE

When is he coming back?

BETA

I don't know that either.

MAGGIE

Right. Well .. just .. try not to get into any trouble while you're here.

BETA

Your pet is with him.

MAGGIE

Jolly? Oh no.

MAGGIE nervously smiles.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN FLEET

The Xurian warship cruises in star drive with its fleet of fighters in tow.

INT. XURIAN WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR sits on his command chair, impatiently tapping his fingers on the arm rest. He half-turns to his command staff behind him.

XUR

Time to Frontier?

XURIAN COMMANDER

Less than fifty tocks.

XUR

Is the virus still operating?

XURIAN COMMANDER

Yes, collapse of the Frontier should occur shortly after our arrival.

XUR absorbs the information. His rule of the galaxy is near.

XUR

Good, good. Soon we will see the beginning of the end for the Star League and its dismal legion of followers.

XUR smiles to himself.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN FLEET

The Xurian fleet fly towards the infinity of stars towards Rylos.

THE STAR LEAGUE

EXT. SPACE -- STAR LEAGUE FLEET

The fleet of gunstars and the control ship fly by the camera in star drive.

INT. DAYTOM -- COCKPIT

The crew are busy operating the starship.

DAYTOM PILOT

Flight leader to fleet, star drive exit in 2 blips. 2 blips to star drive exit.

Behind them, ALEX takes that as the cue to get ready.

ALEX

Right, here we go.

ALEX takes out his laser pistol and checks its power, puts it away, checks his belt strap, his uniform, then thinks for a moment and checks his laser pistol again, just to be sure. CIRRUS watches and smiles, but then checks his pistol as well.

It is busy back in the cockpit. The pilots are prepping for the attack.

DAYTOM CO-PILOT

Communications switched to secure, local.

DAYTOM PILOT

Terminating star drive.

EXT. SPACE

The fleet come out of star drive into normal space towards the camera and float past us towards the asteroid in the background.

INT. DAYTOM

ALEX sees the asteroid through the front windows.

ALEX

The asteroid!

DAYTOM PILOT

Let's close in on the asteroid.

DAYTOM CO-PILOT

Transferring power to weapons and tactical.

DAYTOM PILOT

Flight leader to fleet, arm up and ready.

EXT. SPACE -- FLEET

The fleet of gunstars are powering up their weapons. We see various gunners prepping the weapons controls inside the crafts as well.

The fleet fly toward the asteroid, its size becoming more apparent as they get smaller against it.

INT. DAYTOM

ALEX

That's one huge sucker!

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS gives ALEX a strange look.

ALEX

Never mind.

We are looking at the asteroid from the other side as it flies toward us. We cannot see the Star League attack fleet, but as it flies by, we can see them grouped up next to the rock, hidden. As the asteroid zooms by, camera turns to follow it and ahead we see a distant sphere -- the Xurian homeworld.

INT. DAYTOM

The scanners are displaying the homeworld with various objects around it. ALEX is studying the tactical readout of the Xurian homeworld.

CIRRUS (O.S.)

That's the Xurian homeworld.

ALEX looks out the window at the real thing.

DAYTOM CO-PILOT

Something's not right. The Abhor isn't there.

DAYTOM PILOT

I've got a bad feeling about this.

CIRRUS

We need to warn Rylos!

DAYTOM PILOT

Too late, we're on secure communications. It'll give us away.

ALEX

Maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all.

CIRRUS looks concerned.

Suddenly an alarm goes off.

ALEX

(to CIRRUS)
What now?!

DAYTOM CO-PILOT

Scanning a target .. a Xurian scoutship, coming this way.

CIRRUS

Maybe it's the asteroid they're interested in.

EXT. SPACE -- ASTEROID

A Xurian scout ship flies from behind camera towards it, slows down.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN SCOUT SHIP

As it moves toward us, the asteroid begins to rise up from below and fill the screen. The scout switches on its energy probe and scans the asteroid.

INT. GUNSTAR -- BLUE THREE

The alien gunner is watching the approaching scoutship on his read out. He

THE STAR LEAGUE

looks up at his pilot, who puts his hand up to signal to wait.

BLUE THREE PILOT

Flight leader from Blue Three, do you want us to take care of it?

DAYTOM PILOT

(filtered, O.S.)
Standby, Blue Three.

The scout ship gets closer on the tactical display.

BLUE THREE GUNNER

Curious little thing.

INT. DAYTOM

The display shows the scoutship moving closer. ALEX suddenly jumps.

ALEX

Wait, don't fire! I'm full of ideas today.

DAYTOM CO-PILOT shares a worried glance with DAYTOM PILOT.

EXT. SPACE -- ASTEROID

The scout ship gets closer and closer, running its energy probe up and down the top surface of the asteroid, coming over and down toward the hidden fleet.

One of the gunstars fires an EMP dart that hits the scoutship and knocks out its electrical power. It floats dead in the darkness.

The DAYTOM flies over the scoutship and docks with it.

INT. DAYTOM -- DOCKING HATCH

Armed STAR LEAGUE OFFICERS remove the XURIAN PILOT from his scout ship and bring him briskly to ALEX and CIRRUS. ALEX wasn't expecting that.

ALEX

Ahh, hey there. How's it going?

The XURIAN PILOT pretends he didn't hear.

ALEX

We're just going to borrow your ship, if that's okay.

The XURIAN PILOT clearly has no choice and could do without ALEX's friendly attitude.

ALEX

Put him somewhere safe, and, ahh, we need his uniform.

The armed OFFICERS lead the PILOT away as ALEX and CIRRUS take a look at the XURIAN SCOUT SHIP as it sits docked in the bay. ALEX works his shoulder muscles with a newfound authority.

ALEX

I'm starting to like this. Do you know how to fly one of these things?

CIRRUS smiles.

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS

We can find out.

EXT. SPACE -- DAYTOM

The scoutship detaches from the DAYTOM and flies away, up and over the asteroid. Its movement is a little clumsy for its first time piloting by CIRRUS.

INT. SCOUTSHIP COCKPIT

CIRRUS is dressed in the captured pilot's uniform and is busy working the controls as ALEX activates the radio.

ALEX

(into radio)

Once we're coming back up, we'll let you know when to begin your attack. Remember that once you hit that communications relay, this ship can't talk to yours. So watch out for us when we return, don't want to be blasted by our own gunstars.

DAYTOM PILOT (O.S.)

(radio, filtered)

Understood, Alex, good luck to you both. Daytom out.

ALEX looks out at the planet as it looms closer in the front window. CIRRUS is removing his human face mask, revealing his true self. ALEX tries his best not to notice.

ALEX

I'll never get used to that.

CIRRUS is putting away the mask in a tissue and into a pocket.

CIRRUS

Xur has enslaved many of my people, so if I remove my mask I shouldn't look out of place in uniform down there.

ALEX

If you say so.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN HOMEWORLD

The horizon fills the screen as the scoutship zooms down into the atmosphere.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

An alarm buzzes on the control console. CIRRUS reacts.

CIRRUS

Intercepting a guidance beacon. It's flying itself.

ALEX

Where to?

CIRRUS

I don't know.

CIRRUS is busy working the controls to override it.

ALEX

We have to get to the prison complex!

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS

I'm working on it.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- ATMOSPHERE -- DAY

The scoutship swoops down through the top layers of the atmosphere.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

XURIAN A.T.C. (O.S.)

(filtered, radio)
Scoutship approaching, report.

ALEX and CIRRUS look at each other, not sure what to do.

CIRRUS

They have us on their screen. Probably want to know about the asteroid.

ALEX

We have to tell 'em something.

CIRRUS

(takes a deep breath, then speaks into mike)
Scoutship reporting. Asteroid cleared, no threat detected. Returning to base.

XURIAN A.T.C. (O.S.)

(filtered, radio)
Acknowledged, continue your approach.

ALEX and CIRRUS give each other a surprising expression. CIRRUS looks up data in a computer display.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- SKY -- DAY

The scoutship passes the camera at speed and high altitude.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

CIRRUS

There are navigational maps here. I've locked onto the prison beacon.

ALEX

How did you work that out?

CIRRUS

Xur may be an intergalactic terrorist, but he is Rylan and so is all his technology.

ALEX

That's handy.
(beat)
How are we going to change course without altering the controller?

CIRRUS

We try our luck, if we have any left.
(into radio)
Scoutship on approach requesting diversion to section thirteen for cargo transfer.

THE STAR LEAGUE

XURIAN A.T.C. (O.S.)

(filtered, radio)
Diversion approved.

Something beeps. CIRRUS smiles.

CIRRUS

It's diverting.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- SKY -- DAY

The scoutship is much lower now, only flying thousands of feet above the terrain and structures below. It slows down and assumes an approach configuration.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

CIRRUS and ALEX are watching the prison complex loom closer out the front windows. It's remote, isolated. Several other scoutships are on the landing pads.

CIRRUS takes the controls.

CIRRUS

Switching to manual landing mode. Might get a bit bumpy.

EXT. PRISON LANDING BAY -- DAY

The scoutship flares and lands alongside other ships.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

ALEX

What do we do now?

CIRRUS shrugs at ALEX.

EXT. LANDING BAY -- DAY

CIRRUS walks briskly out of the scoutship, heads towards an access panel on a wall.

PONN (O.S.)

You there, what are you doing!

CIRRUS spins around to find a Xurian guard of his same alien race coming over to him, his weapon aimed.

CIRRUS

Greetings, nice day today.

PONN

What is your purpose here, pilot?

CIRRUS

Could you help me with something?

PONN

Depends, you may not have clearance. You could be a Rylan spy.

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS is quietly alarmed.

CIRRUS
A Rylan spy!? Of course not.

PONN
You did not follow the proper landing procedures.

CIRRUS
Ohh, yes, sorry, I'm still in training. I ..

PONN
Are you here to collect the Rylan prisoners?

CIRRUS is confused but plays along, can't believe his luck.

CIRRUS
Ahh, yes?

PONN
Right. Wait here.

CIRRUS
Understood.

CIRRUS uncomfortably remains at the access panel as PONN walks off into the complex.

INT. SCOUTSHIP -- DAY

ALEX is watching through the front windows. CIRRUS glances over at ALEX.

ALEX
I don't like the look of this.

EXT. LANDING BAY -- DAY

CIRRUS keeps waiting. He tries to be calm as several guards walk past. He activates a small commlink which is heard on ALEX's radio.

CIRRUS
(into commlink, quietly)
Keep the engines running and the weapons online.

PONN returns with GRIG and three starfighters in tattered Star League uniform. They are escorted by four other XURIAN guards.

PONN
Pilot, your prisoners and escort.

CIRRUS
Very good, officer.

CIRRUS and the group start walking over to the scoutship.

A second group of guards come out of the complex.

SECOND GUARD LEADER
Halt! Return those prisoners!

CIRRUS charges for the scoutship and yells into his commlink.

CIRRUS

THE STAR LEAGUE

(into commlink)
Alex, the guards!

INT. SCOUTSHIP -- CONTROL CONSOLE

ALEX hears the commlink and takes aim with the external blaster cannon, fires a shot into the middle of the landing bay to cause confusion.

EXT. LANDING BAY -- DAY

CIRRUS quickly swings his laser pistol up to bear on the guards, firing and taking out two. PONN swings around and takes out the other two. CIRRUS stares in disbelief at PONN, who smiles back.

PONN
Victory or death!

CIRRUS, GRIG and the other PRISONERS scramble across the landing pads towards ALEX's waiting scoutship. As they run across, further guards run into the landing bay to try and stop the escape attempt.

INT. SCOUTSHIP -- COCKPIT

ALEX is busy firing at the GUARDS as they spill into the landing bay. He doesn't notice GRIG entering. GRIG is shocked to see him.

GRIG
The last starfigher!

ALEX glances back for a moment before resuming his shots at the GUARDS.

ALEX
Hey, we gotta get outta here real quick!

CIRRUS comes storming into the cockpit and takes control of the ship. The engines spool up. Behind him the prisoners hold on in the limited space.

CIRRUS
Quite right about that, Alex. Signal the fleet!

ALEX
(flips channel, then speaks into mike)
This is Alex, we have the prisoners and we're heading back. Start your attack!

ALEX resumes firing at the XURIAN GUARDS as PONN runs in and takes a seat. CIRRUS closes the door and lifts the craft off the ground and begins a turning climb for the sky.

EXT. LANDING BAY -- DAY

The Xurian scoutship lifts out of the landing bay and into the sky.

EXT. ASTEROID

Gunstars come flying up over the top of the asteroid in formation, fly past the camera and head toward the Xurian homeworld.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- ATMOSPHERE -- DAY

The captured Xurian scoutship flies up into the sky, climbing away from the planet.

THE STAR LEAGUE

INT. SCOUTSHIP

CIRRUS is concentrating on flying the ship.

Suddenly, there is a jolt as the scoutship is hit by laser fire from behind.

CIRRUS looks at the scanner.

CIRRUS

We've got the attention of two Xurian fighters.

EXT. ATMOSPHERE -- SHIPS -- DAY

The scoutship climbs away with the two Xurian fighters in hot pursuit. Two more blasts jolt the ship as it continues to climb away.

INT. SCOUTSHIP -- COCKPIT

ALEX starts targeting the laser cannon on the pursuing fighters.

CIRRUS

No, Alex, we need the power!

ALEX holds off.

ALEX

Not for long if we don't do something!

GRIG

That's the spirit!

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTARS

The gunstars zoom past the camera in several attack groups. The camera turns to see them heading toward an object floating above the homeworld. The group breaks apart.

INT. BLUE SIX

Looking out the view of the gunner on BLUE SIX, we watch the object get closer. It starts firing defensive laser beams at us.

BLUE SIX GUNNER

Watch those lasers! Locking target .. fire!

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTAR BLUE SIX

The laser cannon opens up on the comms relay, striking it and causing it to drift. Another gunstar then fires two photon bolts into the unit and it explodes in a fiery ball, leaving the base of its structure sparking.

BLUE SIX GUNNER

One communications relay down!

INT. XURIAN SCOUTSHIP

ALEX, CIRRUS and GRIG are holding on as CIRRUS fights with the controls to keep the ship out of harm.

CIRRUS

We're leaving the atmosphere. Signal the fleet for help!

ALEX

I'm not getting a signal. They must have hit the comms

THE STAR LEAGUE

relay.

GRIG

What's your plan, Alex?

ALEX

To get to that asteroid before we're blasted out of space by Xurian fighters, or our own gunstars!

CIRRUS

I'm trying!

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTARS

Two gunstars break off from the advancing group and head to another part of the planet.

EXT. SPACE -- SCOUTSHIP

Climbing as it is trailed by the two attacking Xurian fighters. They all zoom past the camera, and out of nowhere the gunstars appear, firing at the fighters and swinging around behind them to come up and strike them down.

The two fighters explode and the gunstar pilots cheer.

INT. BLUE SIX

BLUE SIX PILOT

All clear.

INT. XURIAN SCOUTSHIP

ALEX

Yes!

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN SCOUTSHIP

The scoutship dips its wings in thanks to the gunstars. The gunstars do the same before peeling off.

INT. DAYTOM

GRIG is excited to see the gunstars flying around them.

GRIG

Go get them!

EXT. SPACE -- PLANET

Xurian fighters swarm into the sector and start battling with the Gunstars.

EXT. SPACE -- SHIPS

Gunstars are fighting with Xurian fighters in a confusing battle, laser fire shooting everywhere. The Gunstars are winning. Their bulk and defence capabilities outweigh the small and agile Xurian fighters who are relying on numbers to try and win, but Xurian fighters manage to overwhelm a gunstar.

EXT. PLANET ATMOSPHERE -- DAY

Another group of gunstars are descending into the Xurian homeworld to knock out

THE STAR LEAGUE

ground targets. We follow RED ONE.

RED ONE PILOT

(into mike)

Red team is approaching secondary targets.

EXT. SKY -- RED TEAM GUNSTARS -- DAY

As they fly past the camera and out of the clouds over the Xurian homeworld.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN SCOUTSHIP

The captured scoutship cruises along towards the asteroid as fast as it can. It flies around and approaches Dayton.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- RADAR -- DAY

The giant radar installation starts firing at the camera and we swing around to see approaching gunstars that open fire and zoom past the camera towards the radar. Photon bolt missiles strike the radar base and it starts exploding, collapsing down into its various buildings.

EXT. XURIAN HOMEWORLD -- FIGHTER BAYS -- DAY

A Xurian fighter starts to take off but is struck by incoming fire from a gunstar. The gunstars swarm over the bays destroying the Xurian fighters as other Xurian fighters come in from elsewhere and get into combat with them. A fight breaks out.

EXT. SPACE -- ASTEROID

Daytom hangs against the asteroid monitoring the activity.

INT. DAYTOM

ALEX, CIRRUS, GRIG and the rescued officers enter the main area of the ship to find out about the battle.

ALEX

What's going on out there?

DAYTOM CAPTAIN

Communications relay destroyed, defensive platforms reduced to forty percent, Xurian fighter force seems to be reduced and their dropping like Nebulan geels. One gunstar lost so far.

ALEX

Right. Any sign of the warship?

DAYTOM CO-PILOT

No, Commander Rogan. We believe it also has taken a large portion of their fighter force. How did you get the prisoners out?

CIRRUS

Allow me to introduce Ponn, our latest Xurian defector.

PONN comes up and smiles.

PONN

Greetings, starfighters. Victory or death!

GRIG

THE STAR LEAGUE

Victory or death, new friend.

ALEX steps into the back with CIRRUS as GRIG talks to PONN.

ALEX

Well, that was quite an effort for a .. "businessman".

CIRRUS

(humbly)

Centari would be proud of us all.

Back at the cockpit, the pilots are receiving numerous reports on the status of the battle. The Daytom Captain gets some bad news.

DAYTOM CAPTAIN

We've been detected by a Xurian defence group heading our way, we're leaving!

ALEX

Back to Rylos?

CIRRUS

Yes, Grig and his men should be given medical attention and we need to return before the Frontier collapses.

GRIG

The Frontier defence is collapsing?

ALEX

Xur implanted a computer virus. It's almost completely collapsed.

GRIG

Well what are we waiting for! I don't need any medical attention. Take us home!

DAYTOM CAPTAIN

(into radio)

Blue and red teams, this is flight leader, we're leaving. Finish your attacks and return.

EXT. SPACE -- ASTEROID

DAYTOM swings around and blasts out of there.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN HOMEWORLD

Gunstars zoom in and out of the camera, meeting a group of approaching Xurian fighters. The fighters mingle, firing off at each other, separating into gangs and heading off in many directions.

A gunstar leads a Xurian fighter towards the sparking remains of the destroyed communications station.

INT. GUNSTAR COCKPIT -- OUT FRONT WINDOW

Approaching the station.

EXT. SPACE -- COMMUNICATIONS STATION

The gunstar zooms toward the station, quickly loops around it and while it's gone out of sight, orientates on the following Xurian fighter, opening fire as it moves around the station. The Xurian fighter is destroyed.

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INT. GUNSTAR COCKPIT -- NAVIGATOR

GUNSTAR PILOT

Good work, Starfighter!

EXT. XURIAN WARSHIP

The Abhor cruises along in star drive.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR is pacing around the bridge with his hands behind his back, watching his men. XURIAN COMMANDER looks up from the display and addresses XUR.

XURIAN COMMANDER

Mighty Xur, we have reached Rylan space.

XUR spins around.

XUR

Terminate the star drive! Prepare the weapons and the fighters.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

My lord, there is a priority message coming in from an outpost.

XUR

What is it?

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

While we were in star drive, Rylan forces attacked the homeworld. Heavy damage.
(pauses to look at Xur who is walking over to him and gestures for him to continue with his sceptre)
Communications relay destroyed. Rylan prisoners taken.

Various OFFICERS around the bridge glance at each other. They know XUR will be angry.

XUR is silent, a mad, controlled rage building inside him. He closes his eyes, his fist and carries on.

XUR

Unfortunate. We will not have the first strike but we will have the last strike. Bring us to the Frontier.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN WARSHIP

The warship flies on with its protective swarm of fighters.

EXT. DAYTOM

The Daytom is cruising in star drive with the fleet of gunstars behind it.

INT. DAYTOM

CIRRUS is replacing his human mask as he explains to GRIG what has happened to the Frontier. ALEX is sitting nearby watching, thinking.

CIRRUS

... and Rylan scientists have tried everything. It just

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can't be stopped.

GRIG frowns.

GRIG

Then this really could be the end for the Star League.

ALEX perks up.

ALEX

Cirrus, you said that Xur has used Rylan technology for all his ships, right?

CIRRUS

Yes.

ALEX

So what would happen if we put the virus back into the computers on Xur's warship?

CIRRUS

I don't know. Maybe nothing, but maybe something!

GRIG

It's got to be worth a try.

There is a beeping from the cockpit.

DAYTOM PILOT

We're at the Frontier.

EXT. SPACE -- FRONTIER

The Daytom flies toward the massive expanse of the Frontier. They activate a gate and pass through, heading on to Rylos.

EXT. SPACE -- RYLOS

The Daytom flies toward RYLOS and approaches to land amongst busy activity of transport ships evacuating Rylan people.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- LANDING BAY

Medics start helping one of the injured hostages while security escort the captured scoutship pilot away.

ALEX, CIRRUS and GRIG disembark from the Daytom.

CIRRUS

I'll get the virus and meet you in the launch bay.

ALEX

Okay!

CIRRUS walks off.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER

ALEX and GRIG walk briskly through the corridors.

ALEX

(to GRIG)

Captain Grig, may I have the honour of piloting a gunstar with you again?

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GRIG

The honour would be mine!

ALEX smiles. They walk on out of scene.

EXT. SPACE -- FRONTIER

The Xurian warship is waiting at the Frontier. Its swarm of fighters buzz around it.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR is standing up close to the viewscreen, staring at the Frontier modules.

XURIAN COMMANDER

The Frontier has collapsed, my lord. We can now enter Rylan space.

XUR quickly moves back to his command chair.

XUR

Take us through.

EXT. SPACE -- FRONTIER

The warship moves on through the modules of the Frontier, knocking them out of the way and gaining speed. The fleet of Xurian fighters zip through, dodging spinning Frontier modules. Some of them get hit and explode.

EXT. FRONTIER -- FURTHER BACK

The captured XURIAN SCOUTSHIP is trailing the great warship at a distance.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

CIRRUS is at the controls in an EVA suit with helmet. He quietly watches the digital readouts indicating an approach vector. A crosshair lines up and flashes red. Beeping starts.

CIRRUS

(into radio)
Automatic landing cycle is locked in.

ALEX

(from radio)
Alright, Cirrus. We see you. Get ready to upload the virus and get out of there.

CIRRUS removes a small computer card from a pocket and inserts it into a slot on the control console. He snaps his visor down and locks it. His suit system switches on.

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTAR

ALEX's gunstar is trailing the scoutship from a distance, which is trailing the warship.

INT. GUNSTAR -- ALEX

ALEX and GRIG are dressed in full starfighter uniform. ALEX is watching the

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scoutship get closer and closer.

EXT. SPACE

The scoutship approaches the warship and levels out over a landing pad, slows down, settles on a pad.

INT. GUNSTAR

ALEX reacts.

ALEX

(into radio)
Now, Cirrus!

INT. SCOUTSHIP

CIRRUS presses a button that reads the virus from the card, then goes to the rear hatch and arms the emergency release.

ALEX

(radio, filtered)
Eject!

CIRRUS hits the open button and alarms sound before the rear hatch opens and the rushing of air sucks CIRRUS out into space and away from the warship.

EXT. SPACE

CIRRUS is shooting away from the warship.

The gunstar blasts its engines at max, races toward him.

EXT. WARSHIP

The scoutship is lowered down into the landing bay.

INT. SCOUTSHIP

Looking out the window, the scoutship is being lowered into the landing bay.

INT. WARSHIP BRIDGE

The XURIAN COMMANDER is watching displays when another display starts flashing, beeping.

XURIAN COMMANDER

My lord, a gunstar has been detected behind us.

XUR

A single gunstar? Don't bother me with such insignificance.

XURIAN COMMANDER is surprised XUR doesn't care. He walks over, comes close by XUR's side.

XURIAN COMMANDER

My lord, it was a single gunstar that was able to ...

XUR raises his sceptre to XURIAN COMMANDER's throat and erects the blade, pressing it against his skin, shutting him up instantly.

XUR

Do you question me, Commander?

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XURIAN COMMANDER

No, my lord. I am here to serve you.

XUR

Then serve.

XURIAN COMMANDER

Yes, my lord.

XUR lowers the sceptre, retracts the blade. XURIAN COMMANDER regains his composure and goes back to his station.

XUR

One gunstar is no longer of any concern to me now.

INT. GUNSTAR

Looking out ALEX's side window, he is commanding GRIG on small control inputs to take CIRRUS into one of the ship's cargo holds.

EXT. GUNSTAR

CIRRUS is slowly spinning around as the gunstar moves closer and closer to him as they fly in formation. CIRRUS grabs onto the fighter's body and pulls himself into the opened cargo bay.

INT. GUNSTAR -- CARGO BAY

CIRRUS

(filtered)

I'm in the cargo bay, close the hatch.

INT. GUNSTAR -- COCKPIT

GRIG

Closing.

EXT. SPACE -- STARFIELD

Stars are rolling gently as the camera moves in deep space.

From the left corner of the screen we see one, then two, then three and more Gunstars rolling into frame, levelling out and flying towards us.

INT. GUNSTAR BLUE SIX

BLUE SIX PILOT

(into mike)

Blue team is established and on an intercept course.

The BLUE SIX GUNNER is busy prepping the ship for battle.

EXT. SPACE -- RYLOS

The warship moves closer to the planet. It is overtaken by a swarm of Xurian fighters who speed toward the world.

The swarm start firing at orbital satellites and other things on their way to the atmosphere.

Gunstars fly toward the planet from another direction and pursue the Xurian fighters.

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INT. GUNSTAR

ALEX and GRIG watch the warship advance on the planet. CIRRUS climbs into the cockpit from a rear hatch and straps into a jumpseat behind GRIG. He lifts up the visor.

CIRRUS

Has it had any effect?

ALEX

Nothing. Maybe it was too good to be true.

GRIG

Patience, Alex. We don't know what to expect.

ALEX hates the waiting, shifts on his seat, watches.

EXT. RYLOS -- DAY

Rylan defence platforms strike an incoming Xurian fighter as it swoops by. Other fighters come in behind it and avoid the fire, achieving hits on the Rylan structures.

Gunstars fly in and chase them away. Dogfights begin.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR

I want full charge on the displacement beam! One blast to spell the end of the Star League.

XURIAN COMMANDER

My lord, we will need to slow down further to energize enough firepower.

XUR seems annoyed at that, but thinks and agrees.

XUR

Very well.

INT. GUNSTAR

ALEX and GRIG are waiting patiently when their displays start flashing and beeping.

GRIG

Xurian fighters, Alex!

ALEX

I see them!

EXT. GUNSTAR

The gunstar blasts its engines and moves off, followed by three Xurian fighters who are in pursuit. ALEX gets right into being a starfighter and successfully plays dogfight and knocks them out of the stars.

EXT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- DAY

Various shuttles are lifting off from the launch bays. Xurian fighters swoop in but are knocked out by defence platforms and gunstars.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- COMMS ROOM -- DAY

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PRESIDENT is busy coordinating the protection of his people and homeworld. It is being hit hard but gunstars continually interrupt the progress of Xur's fighter attack.

EXT. RYLOS -- WARSHIP

The warship is now a little closer to the planet.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR is intensely watching the planet. Small sparks flicker about it from time to time as the battle rages. He turns around to his crew.

XUR

Enough! We must strike now!

XURIAN COMMANDER

My lord, we have not yet generated the power you demand.

XUR

I will wait no longer. Prepare to fire!

XURIAN COMMANDER

As you wish.

XURIAN COMMANDER starts coordinating the fire control.

XURIAN COMMANDER

Fire control ready, awaiting your command.

XUR

Fire!

EXT. SPACE -- WARSHIP

The warship moves forward. Waiting. Waiting. Nothing happens.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR turns around from the viewscreen, quietly furious.

XUR

Must I repeat an order?

XURIAN ENGINEER

Mighty Xur, we are experiencing malfunctions in key systems. Stand by.

XUR can't believe what he is hearing. He glares at XURIAN COMMANDER, who comes over to the ENGINEER's desk, reads from a display.

XURIAN COMMANDER

Life support shutting down on several sections. Weapons control not responding.

(beat)

My lord, the internal network integrity has been compromised, we are losing control of the ship!

XUR

Why has this happened!?

XURIAN COMMANDER searches for data on his display, finds something and looks

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up, visibly astonished.

XURIAN COMMANDER

It is the Frontier virus.

XUR is speechless. He turns his back on them, looks out at the viewscreen, at Rylos. He is thinking. He resigns, spins back around.

XUR

Retreat! Send the signal, head the fleet back to the homeworld.

EXT. GUNSTAR

The gunstar watches patiently.

INT. GUNSTAR -- COCKPIT

ALEX notices something.

ALEX

Grig, you see that!?

Out of the front window we see the warship fire its main engines and begin to turn around and move off.

GRIG

Yes, Alex. The Xurian warship is ...

ALEX

... Leaving! Cirrus, you did it, buddy!

CIRRUS cheers.

EXT. SPACE -- WARSHIP

The great warship is flying away with Rylos behind it. It picks up speed. Out of a corner flies ALEX and GRIG's gunstar past our view.

INT. EARTH -- ALEX'S LOUNGE -- DAY

BETA is in the lounge looking through a photo album. He picks up a drink and smells it, takes a sip. He has an unpleasant response to the taste.

There is a bang from outside in the back yard, like a wood plank falling on the ground. Curious, BETA gets up, looks outside the back window. Nothing but slight wind in the trees. He turns to walk back but hears something else, like someone moving against something. He looks back, nothing.

BETA goes outside, walks slowly into the yard. A twig snaps inside a low tree at the end of the yard. BETA looks on.

Someone is suddenly behind BETA and he and the audience are startled by MAGGIE who has come out to see what he's doing.

MAGGIE

Hey, robot.

BETA

I prefer the term artificial human.

MAGGIE

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Oh, sorry. What are you doing?

BETA

I thought I heard something. Maybe it's the wind.

MAGGIE

Okay, well I'm going to the store, be back soon.

BETA

Okay.

MAGGIE walks back into the house.

BETA turns to go back in but stops, sees something. On the ground in front of the low tree is the FedEx man's ID card. He picks it up.

BETA

Hmm.

There is a rustling sound coming from the tree. A twig snaps. BETA looks up from the ID card. He tries to look into the tree from where he is.

BETA

FedEx. Hello? FedEx.

BETA's nose twitches as he smells something. He steps closer to the tree, slowly, cautiously, pulls leaves down to peer in.

Suddenly a hand shoots out and grabs him by the neck! DELIVERY MAN from before comes jumping out of the tree grabbing BETA by two hands on the neck. They fall down to the ground. DELIVERY MAN straddles him on top and tries to "kill" BETA. BETA is trying with all his might to get the man's hands off his neck. He manages to get one hand free but the man's hand pulls out a laser pistol and aims it at his face. The man growls an alien growl just as...

... a shovel bangs into his head very hard from the side. MAGGIE has come back and saved the day. The man falls over, his weapon thrown clear. BETA gets up and grabs it as the man regains his balance and charges for him. BETA fires, killing the man.

MAGGIE and BETA stand over the man as he transforms into the HITBEAST. MAGGIE is disgusted by its hideous sight and they share a glance.

MAGGIE

Lucky I came back for my phone.

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTARS

All the gunstars are floating in space in formation. As the camera moves, we see an incoming wave of Xurian fighters.

INT. GUNSTAR

ALEX reacts as GRIG starts moving the ship.

ALEX

Blue team, take out as many fighters as you can before they leave the sector!

EXT. SPACE

The gunstars begin an attack on the Xurian fighters as they attempt to run away to the safety of the fleeing warship in the background of the battle.

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EXT. XURIAN WARSHIP

The warship cruises away from the Frontier at full sub-light speed.

INT. WARSHIP BRIDGE

XUR is seated on his command chair, tapping his sceptre against the floor. He speaks quietly to himself with an evil eye.

XUR

There will be another time.

XURIAN COMMANDER reports.

XURIAN COMMANDER

My lord, we will have star drive in a few moments.

XUR

What about our fighters?

XURIAN COMMANDER

They are presently engaged against a fleet of gunstars.

XUR turns back to the viewscreen.

XUR

(quietly to himself)
Another time.

EXT. EARTH -- ALEX'S HOUSE -- DAY

The house is quiet.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- DAY

BETA is helping MAGGIE load suitcases of clothes. They go to MAX's room and load more clothes from his draws and wardrobe. BETA is trying to explain.

BETA

I was sure that both the hitbeasts were taken care of.

MAGGIE

Which is why we can't risk staying here. How many more could there be?

BETA

I agree. What's the plan?

MAGGIE

Plan? Well, we could get Max and go to my uncle's holiday house up at the beach.

BETA

Okay.

MAGGIE

Can you put these in the car?

BETA lifts and carries all three large suitcases and takes them downstairs.

EXT. SPACE -- BATTLE

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The gunstars are picking off the Xurian fighters as they attempt to get to the warship.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

XUR is watching the battle on the viewscreen. He shows a subtle concern.

XURIAN COMMANDER

Star drive online.

XUR spins around and slams his sceptre down on the floor.

XUR

Get us back to the homeworld!

EXT. SPACE -- BATTLE

With the warship entering star drive in the background, the Gunstars are engaged in heavy battle with the Xurian fighters. Various scenes of Xurian fighters being chased and destroyed. One of the gunstars is destroyed.

EXT. EARTH -- SCHOOL -- DAY

MAGGIE and BETA pull up in the car outside the school. They get out and MAGGIE rushes in to get MAXY.

MAGGIE

Stay with the car, I'll be back.

BETA

Sure!

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

MAGGIE walks briskly, gets out her mobile phone and dials ALEX's number. She gets the out of range message and leaves a voice message.

MAGGIE

(into phone)

Alex, it's me. I know what's going on. Xur has found out where we live so we're going to the beach house. Call me when you get this. I miss you. I love you!

(beat)

Oh, and I'm not mad that you broke your promise to never get involved in outer space problems again.

BETA watches MAGGIE walk off up the stairs into the school. Angle back on him looking out the side window as a FedEx truck passes his car. He hears it but slowly looks forward to see it pulling up in front of his car.

BETA starts to worry as a FEDEX MAN gets out, comes to the back of his truck, which is just feet from his car, and opens it up. He ducks down in the car, trying to hide, closes his eyes.

INT. CAR -- DAY

Close up on him listening, hiding. Suddenly, the FEDEX MAN appears at the side window looking down on him. BETA is startled.

FEDEX MAN

Excuse me!

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BETA looks up, opens his eyes.

FEDEX MAN

Excuse me, could you give me a hand with something?

BETA

Who, me?

FEDEX

Yeah, buddy, who else?

BETA tries to think of something to respond with.

BETA

I.. I can't. I'm.. unwell.

FEDEX

Okay, buddy, no problem. You have a nice day.

The FEDEX MAN walks off. BETA cautiously watches as suddenly the car door opens quickly. MAGGIE has returned and puts MAXY in the back, then gets in and they drive off quickly.

EXT. SPACE -- BATTLE

Gunstars knock down several Xurian fighters. Some Xurian fighters are able to jump to star drive.

INT. ALEX'S GUNSTAR

ALEX is busy shooting down fighters. He sighs as he misses one when it enters star drive.

ALEX

Should we follow them?

GRIG

Yes, we should continue to monitor the warship's condition.

ALEX

(into mike)
Blue Team, regroup and enter star drive on my mark. We're heading back to the Xurian Homeworld.

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTARS

Gunstars abandon their pursuits and join ALEX's ship in formation. They jump.

EXT. EARTH -- HIGHWAY -- DAY

MAGGIE, MAXY and BETA's car approaches and passes the camera. They are driving down along a coastal road.

INT. EARTH -- CAR -- DAY

A FedEx van approaches and passes, making BETA raise an eyebrow and watch it. MAXY is studying BETA.

MAXY

Mommy, is daddy sick?

THE STAR LEAGUE

MAGGIE

Daddy's not sick, why do you ask that?

MAXY

Hmm, he seems sick.

BETA and MAGGIE exchange glances. MAGGIE smiles.

BETA has an idea. In his most reassuringly serious fatherly voice he says:

BETA

I am not unwell, my son. I am fine.

MAGGIE tries to stop bursting out in laughter.

MAXY

Why are you talking like that, daddy? You're making mommy laugh.

MAGGIE stops laughing.

BETA

We will be there soon, son.

EXT. EARTH -- ROAD -- DAY

The car drives on into the distance where a storm is brewing.

EXT. SPACE -- XURIAN SPACE

The fleet of Gunstars come out of star drive and continue flying, passing the camera.

INT. ALEX'S GUNSTAR

GRIG is waiting for the navigational beams to realign.

ALEX

Where are they?

GRIG

I'll tell you once the navigational beams lock in.
(beat as Grig notices something alarming)
Fighters, Alex!

ALEX prepares to fire at the incoming fighters in front of them as GRIG steers them to intercept it, when suddenly a huge mass of rock appears out of nowhere, filling his view.

ALEX

Whoah!

GRIG is visibly alarmed to see the gigantic asteroid rolling into view.

EXT. SPACE -- ASTEROID

A Xurian fighter they were chasing smashes into it as their Gunstar turns sharply left and avoids it. It rolls past the camera toward the empty space which is suddenly filled by the Xurian warship coming out of star drive.

INT. ALEX'S GUNSTAR

THE STAR LEAGUE

ALEX, GRIG and CIRRUS look on as the asteroid passes them and approaches the helpless warship.

ALEX

I think it's gonna hit em!

CIRRUS is holding on in the back, trying to see what's happening.

EXT. SPACE -- WARSHIP

The ship is unknowingly on an intercept course with a corner of the asteroid. It tries to turn away but is too late. The surrounding Xurian fighters immediately go bezerk and scramble out of the way as the asteroid rips through a side section of the warship.

The ship brakes into two pieces with explosions and debris flying about.

INT. WARSHIP -- BRIDGE

The bridge is in chaos. Sparks erupt from every console. Smoke fills the room. Screens go grey with static. XUR is climbing around the edges of the consoles and chairs to make his way towards the escape pod. He throws off a lower-ranked officer who is trying to open it. XUR places his hand on a scanner and the light goes green. A hatch opens and he climbs in and closes it.

EXT. SPACE -- WARSHIP

The warship is in tatters. Fire has engulfed it as XUR's escape pod zooms past the camera.

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTAR

The Gunstar is flying side-on to the flaming warship. The asteroid can be seen rolling away in the background.

INT. ALEX'S GUNSTAR

GRIG's scanner begins to beep and flash.

GRIG

Lifepod, Alex!

ALEX glances at his monitor and out into space.

ALEX

I see it.

EXT. SPACE -- LIFEPOD

The lifepod flies toward us and past, spinning. ALEX's Gunstar flies in pursuit.

EXT. SPACE -- GUNSTAR

Claw-like devices deploy from the pursuing Gunstar as it moves closer to the lifepod. The claws grab onto and stop it.

EXT. SPACE -- ANOTHER LIFEPOD

Another lifepod is stopped by another Gunstar.

EXT. SPACE -- WARSHIP

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The remaining chunk of the warship explodes in a fiery ball, leaving just a bare frame of one section behind and on fire.

INT. RYLOS -- COMMAND CENTRE

PRESIDENT is studying tactical readouts. There is a cheer from some of the officers. News spreads and more people cheer. EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1 approaches him.

PRESIDENT

Report.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

The Xurian warship has been destroyed. Several lifepods have been picked up.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2

Sir, the Xurian Force has just signalled its surrender!

PRESIDENT closes his eyes and takes a moment to relax.

PRESIDENT

The universe is free from terror once again. Bring the starfighters in once the sector is secured.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER 1

Yes, sir!

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTER -- LANDING BAY

GRIG, ALEX and CIRRUS disembark from their gunstar to join other pilots and PRESIDENT. A heavier control ship lands nearby and XUR and a few other Xurian officers are escorted out by a group of armed STAR LEAGUE GUARDS.

PRESIDENT

Xur, may I introduce Earthman Alex Rogan, precision starfighter.

ALEX makes a smile, removes his glove and goes to shake XUR's handcuffed hand. XUR merely looks at the hand and grunts.

ALEX

It's a pleasure to meet you face to face after 20 years.
(beat)
Oh, I'm sorry, you seem tied up.

XUR ignores ALEX's playful humour and looks at PRESIDENT.

XUR

It is far from over, old man. Your pathetic legion of worlds won't last.

PRESIDENT

We shall see, Xur. We shall see.
(to guards)
Take them away.

The GUARDS walk off, herding the captured men to prison.

PRESIDENT

All of Rylos is in debt to you, Alex. The Xurian Homeworld has fallen and its forces are surrendering as we speak. Will you join us for celebrations later on?

THE STAR LEAGUE

ALEX

Of course.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- CORRIDOR

The doors of a lift open and out steps XUR, his few men and the RYLAN GUARDS. They begin to walk down the corridor when another group of armed RYLAN GUARDS come out of the nearby doors and break XUR and his MEN free.

XUR runs off, taking a laser rifle and instructing his men.

One of the GOOD GUARDS tries to flee and a firefight ensues. Some of the men on both sides are hit. A GOOD GUARD hits the alarm.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- LANDING BAY

The group are starting to leave.

PRESIDENT

(playfully)

Well Cirrus, once you've finished enjoying yourself, I'll leave the arrangements for the festivities up to you.

CIRRUS

(smiling)

Leave it all to me.

Alarm klaxons suddenly sound. ALEX and the group are startled.

GRIG

It must be Xur!

ALEX

Come on!

ALEX draws his laser rifle and heads off with GRIG and CIRRUS in tow.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- CORRIDOR

The same lift as before opens to a hazy mess of laser blast scorch marks and a few bodies.

GRIG

Looks like Xurian sympathisers.

ALEX

Damn!

CIRRUS

Xur must be roaming the base.

ALEX

Great...

The three move on cautiously, joined by several other guards with their rifles drawn.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- HALLWAY 2

XUR and two remaining men roam the hallways, firing and scaring off RYLAN OFFICERS as they make their way around the base. They pass a room that gets

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XUR's interest. He comes back and makes his men stand outside as lookouts.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- ROOM

XUR's reflection in the display screen shows an evil, determined look as he types away. We don't know what he's doing but he starts to smile.

INT. RYLOS -- STAR LEAGUE COMMAND CENTRE -- CORRIDOR 2

GRIG, ALEX and CIRRUS come around the corner and discover XUR'S MEN. A firefight begins. They manage to strike to the two men and approach the room, slowly peer in.

GRIG

It's the Beta Unit Control Centre.

ALEX peeks into the room carefully. A laser blast hits the doorframe and ALEX bounces back.

ALEX

Whoah! I guess we found him!

GRIG

Careful, Alex. Starfighters are meant for the stars. Armed guards will be here shortly.

CIRRUS

Do you think he might be in here for a reason?

GRIG's and ALEX's faces turn to worry. ALEX realises the risk and runs into the control room, leaping for cover behind a control console as XUR fires a few shots but misses.

GRIG

Alex! Get out of there!

ALEX waves them away.

XUR

Alex Rogan, the last starfighter. The legend who...

ALEX

I'm not really up for the villain's speech right now, Xur. How about you just throw me that laser rifle and come out?

XUR

Go back to Earth where you belong, human. I will catch up with you in time.

ALEX

It all ends here, Xur. Face it. No more conquering for you.

As XUR begins to respond, ALEX looks around the far side of the console he is hiding behind. He sees Xur in a reflection of the floor-to-ceiling windows of a smaller room. He adjusts his laser rifle to bounce off the window.

XUR

There will be others after me, continuing the idea that there is a better way of life than the pathetic...

ALEX

Have you ever played pool before, Xur?

THE STAR LEAGUE

XUR

What?

ALEX fires his laser rifle, bouncing the shot off the glass and striking XUR in the chest.

XUR drops his weapon and grabs his bleeding chest. There is suddenly a beep from the console he is lying next to. His bloody hand reaches up and acknowledges a blinking, beeping button. His hand then drops and he dies.

ALEX moves in, followed by GRIG and CIRRUS. ARMED GUARDS begin to spill into the room shortly after. They are all looking down at XUR's body.

ALEX

He pressed that blinking button there. What is it?

CIRRUS examines the display and his face turns to horror as he realises what XUR has done.

CIRRUS

Oh no.

ALEX

What is it!?

GRIG looks over, realises it too. He tries to cancel the command XUR sent.

CIRRUS

Xur instructed the beta unit to terminate its subjects!

GRIG

It's not aborting. Xur's locked it with an override. We have to get to Earth, Alex! Come on!

The THREE MEN run out of the room quickly.

EXT. EARTH -- BEACH HOUSE -- DAY

The sky is getting dark and grey as a car drives up the access road and stops in front of the two storey house. MAGGIE, BETA and MAXY get out. MAGGIE starts unloading the boot as MAXY runs up to the door and unlocks it for BETA, who walks in and inspects the place.

INT. BEACH HOUSE -- DAY

BETA walks up the central stairs and looks out at MAGGIE below. She is carrying bags into the house. She looks up.

MAGGIE

I could use some help, artificial human!

BETA

Right.

BETA turns to come down.

INT. BEACH HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

MAGGIE is unloading food. MAXY runs down the stairs.

MAXY

Mommy, mommy, can I sleep upstairs tonight?

THE STAR LEAGUE

MAGGIE

Sure. Let's take your stuff up.

MAGGIE and her son go outside to get his stuff. BETA is carrying a box into the house.

EXT. HOUSE -- CAR -- DAY

MAGGIE and MAXY get MAXY's stuff and come into the house.

INT. HOUSE -- STAIRS -- DAY

MAXY runs up with his pillows, followed by a slower MAGGIE with bags and blankets.

INT. HOUSE -- UPSTAIRS ROOM -- DAY

MAXY jumps onto the bed. MAGGIE comes in and puts his blankets and bags down, then goes to the window to look out. It's windy and noisy up there with the coast and storm nearby. Her hair is thrown about in the breeze. She tries her mobile phone and sees there's a signal. She dials ALEX's number but gets the out of range message again. Her attention goes back to MAXY. Footsteps can be heard as BETA comes up the stairs. They have a machine-like beat to them.

MAGGIE

Wow, looks like a thunderstorm on the way. Will you be okay up here?

MAXY

Thunderstorms don't scare me, mommy.

MAGGIE

Really?

MAXY seems to look past MAGGIE at something behind her.

MAXY

Daddy scares me.

MAGGIE

What?!

MAGGIE instinctively looks behind her at the door and is alarmed to see BETA holding a knife. He has a determined and evil expression on his face. He walks towards MAGGIE, who grabs MAXY's arm and yanks him towards the open window.

MAGGIE

Climb out the window, quick!

MAGGIE picks up a chair and throws it at BETA, who stumbles but continues his advance. MAGGIE is trapped in the corner, glancing over at her escaping son.

MAGGIE

(to MAXY)
Be careful!

MAXY is in mid-climb out the window when he looks back. The wind is loud and messes up his hair.

MAXY

Mommy!

THE STAR LEAGUE

INT. HOUSE -- BEDROOM DOOR -- DAY

JOLLY THE DOG comes leaping through the doorway and jumps onto BETA, biting and pulling him down to the ground and causing him to drop the knife. BETA falls near MAGGIE, who uses the chance to move over to the window to get MAXY.

JOLLY is biting BETA on the arm, who is then unable to get up.

At that moment, ALEX, GRIG and CIRRUS run into the room and take the knife and shut down BETA. He falls limp on the floor. JOLLY continues to drag his arm as ALEX comes over to his family.

ALEX
Are you okay?

MAGGIE
Yes, Maxy?

MAXY
Daddy!!!

MAGGIE releases him and looks him over, smiles.

MAGGIE
I love you're new uniform.

MAGGIE gives him a hug and a kiss. ALEX cuddles his family together as GRIG and CIRRUS look on, giving each other a smile.

ALEX gets JOLLY off BETA and sits down on the bed, relieved.

ALEX
Come here, Jolly. Good boy!

MAXY runs over and gives JOLLY a big hug.

GRIG finds the right moment to say hello.

GRIG
Ahem, not going to say hello to an old friend?

MAGGIE
Grig, I've missed you!

MAGGIE gives GRIG a hug.

MAGGIE
You should visit us more often.

GRIG
Yes, well we've been a bit busy lately but Alex has sorted that out for us.

MAGGIE raises an eyebrow of suspicion.

MAGGIE
He has?

MAGGIE realises she hasn't met CIRRUS.

MAGGIE
Hello, I'm Alex's wife, Maggie of Earth.

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS

Greetings, I am Cirrus from Andromeda.

MAGGIE

Nice to meet you, Cirrus.

ALEX

What shall we do about him?

ALEX is pointing down to BETA's body.

GRIG

Hmm.

EXT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

The beach house is lit up with interior lights. Distant laughter can be heard from inside. Outside, CIRRUS's starcar is parked near MAGGIE's car. The weather has calmed.

INT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

Everyone is sitting around the dinner table. ALEX, who has changed into his normal Earth clothes, has his arm around MAGGIE. MAXY is slowly picking at his food. GRIG is busy telling them how ALEX and CIRRUS snuck into prison and how shocked he was to see ALEX.

MAXY

I am so proud of you, daddy!

Everyone smiles as MAXY runs up to ALEX and gives him a hug. ALEX smiles at GRIG and CIRRUS.

EXT. BEACH -- NIGHT

The storm has passed and the moonlight lights up our three heroes as they walk along the beach.

CIRRUS

I see what you mean about the sand between your toes. It is a lovely sensation!

ALEX

So what will happen to the Star League from here?

GRIG

We have a long and slow task ahead, to rebuild the Frontier and the Star League command. But without Xur around to sabotage and slow us down, it's going to be a lot easier thanks to you.

CIRRUS

Thank you, Alex. You know that you're welcome on Rylos any time.

ALEX

Thanks guys. Don't know how I'll get there, though.

GRIG

Of course. Here. A communications crystal.

GRIG hands ALEX the crystal. ALEX puts it away in his shirt pocket.

THE STAR LEAGUE

CIRRUS

We better get back to Rylos. I'm organising the celebrations.

GRIG

Oh, you poor thing.

ALEX

Oh, guys, I promised Mags I would never go into space again, but I did. I better stay this time.

GRIG

We understand, Alex. We will pass on your regards to the masses.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE -- NIGHT

CIRRUS and GRIG carry BETA's body to the starcar and put him in the back, close the door. They get into the car and CIRRUS winds up the turbines for take off.

ALEX leans over CIRRUS's open door and says goodbye.

CIRRUS

Take care of yourself, Alex.

GRIG

Until the next dimension.

ALEX

Until the next dimension.

GRIG closes the power door and ALEX steps back. His family meet him at the front door to the house as they watch the starcar rise up into the sky and zoom away like a falling star going up. The music rises and a falling star comes down in the corner of the screen.

THE END