

DERELICT - EPISODE FIVE
"Carved in Mayhem"

by
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INT. DERELICT SHIP - DRY STORAGE 1

The sound of a maintenance hatch opening. Three people climb through it, fall to the floor of the new room.

RAYNOR, KILLIAN, FREED.

They lay on the floor, breathing hard.

FREED
Chambers...
(then)
Where's Chambers?

Raynor swallows, breathes.

RAYNOR
He...

FREED
Raynor?

RAYNOR
He... didn't make it. He froze.
The tram just collapsed down on
top of him. Looked like, anyway...

FREED
It looked like? He could still be
back there. He could--

The sound of the apparatus, the strange, robotic horn. Threatening, angry... coming.

KILLIAN
If the doc wasn't dead then, he
definitely is now. Lest he finds
another way out. Either way...
more pressing concerns do we have.

Everyone starts to sit up.

RAYNOR
He's right. What are we going to
do? This thing isn't stopping.

KILLIAN
Where are we? Feels like some kind
of storage bay?

FREED
It is. Equipment. Crates. Lots of
it. Some loaders. Racks on the
ceiling.

The sounds of metal being crushed on the other side of the wall.

RAYNOR

Tram out there is barely slowing it down. Crushing it foot by foot.

FREED

Can it get in here?

KILLIAN

Your answer is there.

They look to where he points.

KILLIAN

Door to the tramway. For offloading the tram.

RAYNOR

This room is actually lit. For once. Look at the ceiling. Dead center in front of the door.

FREED

Is that... a track?

RAYNOR

Some kind. My guess: it's how this thing moves.

FREED

It hangs from the ceiling?

RAYNOR

Apparently. And that door's big enough for it. Once it destroys the tram, it'll open it and be in here.

FREED

Well, let's not be.

They move through the space, fast, looking for an exit.

RAYNOR

Door! There!

They reach the door, try the panel. It beeps. Negatively.

They try again. Same thing.

COMPUTER VOICE

Alert. Stage C security lockdown
in effect. All exterior access
points sealed.

FREED

This again...

RAYNOR

We're not cranking this one. Can
you hack it?

The sounds from outside, louder, coming closer.

FREED

I don't... I don't think in time.

The sounds again.

FREED

We need a less complicated
interface.

RAYNOR

Codex.

CODEX

Query?

RAYNOR

Are there any other ways out of
this room?

CODEX

There is a cabling duct access
point, twenty feet from your
current position.

KILLIAN

Can feel it. This way.

They move for it. The sounds continue.

FREED

I see it. Yeah, I can open this.

RAYNOR

How fast?

FREED

Well, depending on--

The sounds again.

RAYNOR

Don't waste time talking to me.
Codex. The tramway door into this
room. It's huge, it's gotta be
hydraulic, yes?

CODEX

Correct.

RAYNOR

Where's the control valve system?

CODEX

The tramway entry door's hydraulic
system is located behind a red
wall panel near the northwest
corner of the room.

RAYNOR

Got it.

She starts to move for it.

KILLIAN

Need help?

RAYNOR

More than likely.

They both run for it. The sound of the apparatus, outside
the door, crushing what little remains of the tram.

They reach the wall panel.

RAYNOR

Here it is.

She starts disconnecting the panel from the wall.

KILLIAN

And we are doing?

RAYNOR

The door's hydraulic. We're
looking for its emergency shutoff
valve. It'll bleed out all the
pressure, probably spray a whole
bunch of fluid, but keep the door
sealed and that thing out of here.

KILLIAN

Optimistic. The machine out there,
not designed to be stopped.

The giant door starts to open. Freed shouts from the distance.

FREED
Guys?!

RAYNOR
I know!

Raynor gets the panel off, drops it to the floor. She rummages through the valves.

RAYNOR
There's the shutoff...

She finds one, yanks it up. It rattles, but doesn't move.

RAYNOR
You have to be kidding me.

KILLIAN
Problem?

RAYNOR
The handle's padlocked. We need a code.

The door keeps raising.

FREED
Guys?!

KILLIAN
Where's the pump itself?

RAYNOR
Should be here...

Raynor moves, yanks off another wall panel. The sound of the pump, opening the big door.

RAYNOR
There.

KILLIAN
Step away.

RAYNOR
What are you--?

The door keeps raising. The sound of the apparatus, about to burst in.

Killian moves to the pump, lays a hand on it.

RAYNOR
Don't touch it! It's hot!

KILLIAN
Matters very little.

The sound of the pump... Then the sound of it faltering,
Sparking. Grinding horribly...

RAYNOR
Oh no...

Then something inside it bursting.

Air HISSES out of it. Liquid sprays everywhere

Then the door groans once, twice... and comes SLAMMING
DOWN.

The sound of the apparatus outside, horns angrily.

Raynor stares at Killian...

RAYNOR
What did you do?

KILLIAN
Warped the pistons inside the
pump. Just a bit. They ground into
their chambers.

RAYNOR
You warped the pistons inside the
pump just by--

New sounds now. Loud and jarring. And very bad.

The whirring of giant saw blades. RIPPING into and through
the storage bay doors.

RAYNOR
Holy shit!

KILLIAN
Cutting through the door now.

RAYNOR
I see that! It has tools?!

KILLIAN
Seems to be.

They get up, start moving.

RAYNOR
Freed! We may need to hurry!

FREED
That's a switch!

They run. The saw keeps spinning, spraying debris and sparks everywhere.

Raynor and Killian make it back to Freed.

RAYNOR
Well?

FREED
Almost got it.

RAYNOR
How close is almost?

The saw keeps spinning, spraying debris and sparks everywhere.

FREED
Almost is almost.

From behind them, the sound of the cutting stops.

KILLIAN
Not. Good.

The door explodes into shrapnel as the apparatus explodes inside. It trumpets angrily.

RAYNOR
Oh, my God...

FREED
Got it!

The hatch opens.

KILLIAN
Hustle.

Freed scrambles in. So does Killian. Raynor just stares at the apparatus, filling the room, moving towards her.

KILLIAN
Raynor...

RAYNOR
Yeah. Yeah, okay...

She unfreezes, moves for the hatch.

Behind her the apparatus barrels into the room.

She gets inside to...

INT. CABLING DUCT

They all crawl through the duct, one at a time.

The sound of the apparatus behind them.

FREED

Raynor? You saw it?

They keep moving.

FREED

Raynor?!

RAYNOR

(unnerved)

Yeah... Yeah, I saw it.

(then)

Wasn't blinded this time.

(frightened)

I've never... I've never seen anything like it. It was mechanical. It was... huge. Hanging from the track in the ceiling. A giant... cube. A giant cubic... I don't know how to--

The sound of the apparatus behind them.

FREED

Okay. Giant scary cube machine. Got it. I'm at the exit hatch. Give me a sec.

The sound of the apparatus, reaching the entrance to their shaft.

RAYNOR

It's at the hatch behind us!

FREED

Well, it's not coming in here. Barely enough room for us.

Strange sounds, like gears, mechanics, coming to life.

KILLIAN
May not matter...

Then a new sound. A hissing. Like... gas exiting a catheter.

FREED
What the...

RAYNOR
Is that..?

KILLIAN
Some kind of nerve gas, had to guess.

FREED
What?!

RAYNOR
Freed get that hatch open!

FREED
What is it you think I'm--

KILLIAN
Lay down.

FREED
Why?!

KILLIAN
So I can kick the hatch open.

Freed lays down. Killian crawls over her.

We hear the sound of him kicking the hatch...

The gas keeps spreading.

RAYNOR
Hold your breath!

FREED
Gee, thanks!

Killian keeps kicking. Again. Again. Again.

The hatch flies off the shaft wall.

KILLIAN
Move...

Freed moves out of the hatch. Killian follows. Raynor next.

They crawl, fast as they can, to...

INT. MACHINE SHOP

They crash to the floor, roll out of the way.

Cough raggedly, breathing in air.

After a moment...

FREED

How is this... It's tracking us.
Somehow. It knows where we go.
Knows where we are.

CODEX

Alert. The security apparatus has
a variety of tracking
functionality. LIDAR for motion
sensing and local area
composition. Magnetic field
detectors for EM radiation.
Thermal detectors for heat
sources. Acoustic pressure sensors
for--

RAYNOR

Okay, okay. So... it's got pretty
much everything.

KILLIAN

Means it knows where we went.
Means it will be in here, too.

FREED

Where is here?

RAYNOR

Looks like... Looks like a machine
shop? Fabrication equipment.
Repair stations.

FREED

Where's the door?

The sound of the apparatus. The sound of walls moving
outside their own.

RAYNOR

We can't... keep running. Seems
pretty clear, this thing isn't
stoppable.

FREED

Well, what do we do?

KILLIAN

Hide.

FREED

Hide? How? You heard the Codex,
that thing sees every way there is
to see.

The sound of the apparatus. The sound of walls moving
outside their own.

Raynor thinks. Studies the room.

RAYNOR

Codex.

CODEX

Query?

RAYNOR

In the center of the room... the
processing tank. Is that... a
Coker?

CODEX

Correct. The machine shop contains
a coking unit for processing
residual oil.

The sound of the apparatus. The sound of walls moving
outside there own.

RAYNOR

Come on...

She is up and running. The others follow. They reach the
Coker.

FREED

What's a Coker?

KILLIAN

Processes left over oil. Turns it
into petroleum coke.

RAYNOR

Among other things. Climb the
ladder on the main tank, the big
one.

FREED

Why?

RAYNOR

Because that's where the oil is.

The sounds of them climbing the ladder.

FREED

What?

RAYNOR

If this thing sees thermal, EM,
and LIDAR... the oil might have
the right viscosity and alloy
count to block all of it.

KILLIAN

You're saying, can fool its
sensors.

MUSIC: Solar Flares, Night

Raynor reaches the top. Starts trying to open the hatch to
the tank.

RAYNOR

I'm hoping.

FREED

Wait a minute... Are you
suggesting we... get inside the
tank?

Raynor keeps working on the hatch.

RAYNOR

I am.

FREED

You want to swim in oil?

RAYNOR

We can't swim in it, we'll sink.

She keeps working on the hatch.

FREED

Then how the hell are--

RAYNOR

There's nothing else, Freed! If
you don't like it, you don't have
to do it!

Raynor yanks the hatch open. Yawning blackness below them.
And a powerful smell wafts up and out.

FREED

Bloody tears...

(then)

The smell... It's like rotten
eggs.

RAYNOR

It's residual oil. Lots of
sulphur.

FREED

I don't... I don't think I can...

The sound of the apparatus. The sound of walls moving
outside there own.

RAYNOR

There's an interior ladder built
into the wall, see it?

KILLIAN

See it.

She climbs into the hatch, her feet find the first rungs.

RAYNOR

We'll have to get all the way in.
Submerge. Cover as much as you
can, just leave your nose out to
breathe.

FREED

This can't be happening...

RAYNOR

Hold on to the ladder to keep
yourself from sinking.

A new sound now. The sound of the wall lifting up into the
machine shop.

KILLIAN

It is here.

RAYNOR

Come on, if you're doing it. If
not... Godspeed.

Raynor lets go and falls into...

INT. OIL PROCESSING TANK

...and plunges into the oil. She gasps out loud.

FREED

What?

(then)

What?

RAYNOR

It's... freezing...

Another splash as Killian falls into the oil. Then Freed.

Their voices echo strongly inside the metal tank.

Freed coughs raggedly, trying to breathe.

Everyone shivers.

RAYNOR

Go under. Much as you can. That thing has acoustic pressure sensors for detecting sound, so don't make any. Whatever you do. You're going to want to vomit. Or gag. Don't. No sound, no matter what it does. Or it will find us.

The sound of the apparatus from outside, moving into the room.

FREED

Bloody tears...

Killian chuckles.

RAYNOR

Good luck.

Everything goes muted and thick as Raynor goes under the surface.

We can still hear the apparatus outside, moving. We hear it start to scan, electronically probing the machine shop.

We hear Raynor's heart beat. Hear the sound of her breaths coming in through her nose.

The scanning continues. The apparatus moves...

...and then the processing tank rocks violently as, presumably, the machine slams into it.

Raynor groans in fear...

It rocks again, slamming into the tank.

Raynor breathes, her heart beat quickens, but she doesn't cry out or move, she stays where she is.

No other hit on the tank comes. The sound of the apparatus scanning shuts off. The sound of the machine itself fade away.

Raynor stays under another few moments, as long as she can take it...

...then she pulls out of the oil, not caring anymore.

She coughs raggedly, trying to breathe. So does everyone else.

FREED

Is... it...?

RAYNOR

I don't care. Get out... Get out.

She climbs the ladder. So do the others, climbing up and out, to...

INT. MACHINE SHOP

She pulls out of the hatch, rolls, tries to climb down the ladder on the outside, slips, falls, hits the floor...

Then she wretches out all the muck in her mouth and whatever she swallowed. Coughs and spasms horribly.

The others fall next to her, do the same.

After a moment, breathing heavy, exhausted, they stare at each other.

FREED

I hate this job...

INT. MACHINE SHOP - CHEMICAL SHOWER

The sound of water pouring out of a shower.

Raynor, groaning, underneath it, scrubbing her hair, getting the oil off.

She breathes heavy... pained.

The sound of the Jet effect, in her head. Electromagnetics. Pain. She leans against the wall, groaning, trying not to pass out.

RAYNOR
Not now... Not now...

The sounds, fade away. She breathes easier. A little.

She turns off the shower.

Behind her, a voice...

KILLIAN
Been having a lot of those, seems like.

Raynor gasps, spins, instinctively covers herself.

RAYNOR
What the fuck?!

KILLIAN
Jet effect. Every hour or so now. By my count.

RAYNOR
Get out of here--

KILLIAN
Used the chemical shower in your clothes, same as me. Not much to see, angel... even if I could.

RAYNOR
Blind or not, you see just fine.

Killian chuckles.

KILLIAN
Some ways... it is sadly still lacking.

RAYNOR
What do you want?

Killian steps towards her, his feet echoing in the shower.

KILLIAN
Freed's outside, in the shop somewhere. Trying to power it. Trying to get a computer up.

RAYNOR
What do you want?

KILLIAN
The water... How was the
temperature?

RAYNOR
What?

KILLIAN
The temperature. How was it?

Raynor thinks.

RAYNOR
Scalding. Almost. Incredibly hot.
Why?

Killian pulls something from his belt. It vibrates
strangely. Glows.

Raynor breathes in, nervous.

RAYNOR
Is that a... vibroblade?

KILLIAN
Best friend a wayward man can
have.

He takes a step towards her.

RAYNOR
Plasma resonance, vibrates at very
high frequencies. Those things can
cut through metal.

KILLIAN
Like butter...

RAYNOR
You have two of them.

KILLIAN
Got two hands...

RAYNOR
They're illegal.

Killian chuckles.

KILLIAN
You don't say.

RAYNOR
Stop. Stop right there...

Killian stops. Smiles.

KILLIAN
Oh, Angel... Thought we ironed out
our trust issues. Back in the pod.

RAYNOR
You're the one holding a blade.

KILLIAN
Fair enough.

They stare at each other.

Then, in a blur of motion, Killian stabs the vibroblade into the wall next to him. It explodes in shards. He drags the blade down. More shards. Then a chunk of it falls to the floor.

RAYNOR
What are you doing?

KILLIAN
Showing you something. Behind the
wall. Look.

The sound of the vibroblade deactivating, shoved back in its sheath.

Raynor doesn't move.

KILLIAN
Look...

Raynor steps towards him, looks at the hole in wall.

RAYNOR
Water pipes. What about it?

KILLIAN
The blue one.

RAYNOR
Cold water input. Yeah. So what?

KILLIAN
Touch it.

She studies him, then moves to the pipe. Touches it.

She withdraws her hand back fast.

RAYNOR
Jesus... It's white hot.

KILLIAN
Pipes run the length of the ship,
mostly in the superstructure, can
feel them winding through it. Any
guess, might you have, as to why
the cold water pipe's so hot?

RAYNOR
Because we're rolling in the
atmosphere. The heat shields
aren't working anymore...

KILLIAN
This ship, in its death throes.
Time is not on our side.

She groans again. Holds her head.

RAYNOR
So, what's new?

KILLIAN
Getting worse. Since you got here.

RAYNOR
Yeah... I don't... get it.
Electromagnetics are... different
here. Pointed. Something must
be... emitting it. But what?

KILLIAN
This ship... Wholly unique. Who
can say what it holds.

RAYNOR
Before we left the Eldridge... An
ISD agent, he gave me... Some kind
of hypo. M-D tech. Supposed to...
help with Jet withdrawal. Supposed
to... block the effect.

KILLIAN
Hold onto it?

RAYNOR
In my pack. But he said... For
emergencies only. I've been saving
it.

KILLIAN
And this ISD agent... Did not make
it, my guess?

RAYNOR
He died outside.

Raynor groans again.

KILLIAN
How long since your remission
started? Since you quit?

RAYNOR
Four years.

KILLIAN
Long time, living in pain. Never
goes away. Just sits there, in
your head. Best you can hope for
is distraction. Something to make
you not think about it. Make you
forget.

(then)
That why you're here? Jobs like
this one, life or death... Good
distractions. Those in your
boots... Work a lot of jobs like
this.

RAYNOR
Already told you why I'm here.

KILLIAN
Motivations people say out loud,
not always what's going on inside.

Raynor looks at him.

RAYNOR
You said before... you knew an
addict. Someone who suffered.

KILLIAN
It is the truth.

Raynor looks at him.

RAYNOR
Did they... make it?

He thinks about it. Then...

KILLIAN
Best they could...

The sound of the apparatus. Far off. Somewhere in the ship.

KILLIAN
Don't move. Stay quiet.

Killian kneels down, feels the wet floor with his hands. A humming, barely audible, in the air. After a moment...

KILLIAN
Not coming this way... Searching, though. Will double back eventually.

RAYNOR
You just touch the floor, and you can tell all that? It's that easy for you?

Their comms crackle.

FREED (O.S.)
Raynor. Killian. Get in here.

They look at each other.

RAYNOR
Now what...?

They move off together. The door out of the shower opens. They exit back into...

INT. MACHINE SHOP

They move through the dead room. They hear the sounds of someone working on electronics and wires nearby.

FREED
I basically have it...

RAYNOR
Basically have what?

FREED
Power to the room. It's like Killian said, the ship isn't dead, it's disconnected. There's power in the mainlines, the load balancers are just intentionally keeping it from distributing.

(MORE)

FREED (CONT'D)

I think I can override the primary
LB.

RAYNOR

Wait. Should we do that? What if
that thing can detect a powered
room?

Freed keeps working.

FREED

It undoubtedly can. I checked the
track in the ceiling. It's wired
too. Fibre optics. I'd bet they
connect it to every room on the
ship.

RAYNOR

Then why would we--

FREED

I cut the optics. But I shunted
the exit connection with a
distributor. As far as that thing
is concerned, the room will look
dead.

RAYNOR

And you're sure?

FREED

Mostly...

Sparks. More sparks.

FREED

Ouch...

Then the sound of the room powering, computers coming on
line.

FREED

And there we are.

Freed stands up. She moves to a computer, starts typing.

FREED

Gonna try a terminal...

RAYNOR

Check the hull integrity. If you
can.

FREED

I can...

The sound of data scrolling.

RAYNOR

Oh, God, look at that.

FREED

Yeah... 17% integrity on heat shields. Hull is taking hits all over the ship. 61%, I'm surprised we haven't breached yet.

RAYNOR

We will. Soon. I'd give us... maybe four hours. Tops. Before everything disintegrates.

KILLIAN

We lose life support before that.

FREED

Rosy...

CODEX

New mission imperative: Deactivate security lockdown. Normalize degrading orbit.

RAYNOR

I keep hearing that. Security lockdown. What does that mean? Is that why the power in the ship is disconnected?

CODEX

Correct. A Condition 3 Security Lockdown was implemented on board experimental vessel XTX-38523, 76 hours ago. A Condition 3 Security Lockdown seals and separates all three primary areas of the ship, disables power and electronic functions to the Halo, and engages the Halo security apparatus.

RAYNOR

Why? What's the point of a machine like that?

CODEX

The security apparatus ensures
that the EDP completes
successfully.

FREED

And... What's the EDP?

CODEX

Emergency Disintegration Protocol.

RAYNOR

Disintegration...

(then)

Like a self destruct sequence?

CODEX

Correct.

FREED

Whoa... Whoa, whoa.

RAYNOR

Codex... How is this EDP carried
out?

CODEX

The EDP is accomplished through
atmospheric disintegration.

RAYNOR

The degrading orbit...

CODEX

Correct. The EDP protocol destroys
the ship by exposing it to extreme
atmosphere burn.

FREED

I don't understand...

RAYNOR

It wasn't a mistake or some
malfunction. It's intentional. The
ship is burning up in the
atmosphere intentionally.

FREED

Why? Why not just blow the whole
thing to shit?

KILLIAN

Because this ship... whatever it is, whatever it does, carrying something your normal, every day quantum explosion won't make gone.

FREED

Can you name anything a quantum warhead won't make "gone"?

RAYNOR

No. But whatever it is, it's on this ship. And part of the design was an elaborate self-destruct sequence that involves the entire thing burning up in planetary atmosphere, and that giant killing machine out there making sure no one stops it.

FREED

You saw the apparatus. You said it's... mechanical?

RAYNOR

It was a... giant cube. Maybe forty feet square? Mechanical. Technological. Moves on the ceiling track.

KILLIAN

Transformed itself earlier, switched from using the ceiling track to running on the tramway rail. Ship seems designed to let it go wherever it needs.

FREED

Cut through the doors. Gassed us. It's got a lot of tricks.

RAYNOR

Not to mention software, it's not algorithm based, it must be VI run. It's problem solving.

FREED

Why the vocalizations? The sounds? It sounds like a damn dragon or something.

KILLIAN

Same reason for the light. Intimidation. Confusion.

RAYNOR

He's right. M-D combat mechs
vocalize for disorientation and
fear.

FREED

But why build something like that?
I mean, it's an engineering feat.
Why not just use normal attack
mechs?

Raynor thinks it through.

RAYNOR

An overly engineered solution to a
problem implies...

KILLIAN

Yes?

RAYNOR

The "problem" is more complicated
than we know. The apparatus was
made for a specific threat.
Something we haven't seen yet.
This high orbit self destruct
protocol was made for it too.
(then)
Something went really bad here.

KILLIAN

No. Something... got out.

RAYNOR

What? What got out?

KILLIAN

Beyond my knowing, Angel.

RAYNOR

Bullshit. You were here before us.
Here probably before everything
went down. We saw the bodies in
the security checkpoint before.
Your handiwork, wasn't it?

KILLIAN

To be certain.

RAYNOR

So stop hiding the facts, start
cooperating.

KILLIAN

Facts...

(then)

Facts are, was part of a... team.
Assembled for one purpose. Breach
ship security. Take down its
power. Profit off its valuables.

RAYNOR

Stealing shit? That's why you were
here?

KILLIAN

The team... Myself, had an agenda
of a different sort.

RAYNOR

God damn it, when are you going to
stop talking in circles? You want
to live? Then start telling us
what you saw. You were here when
it all went to shit.

KILLIAN

Quite frankly.

RAYNOR

Then what did you see?

Killian breathes out.

KILLIAN

We cut a path to the bridge.
Killed our share on the way.
Armored security mostly. Mechs.

(then)

All I can tell you, Angel... When
the lights went out... the real
killing started.

(then)

Most, then, ran. Never saw them
again. Felt them, though.

FREED

Felt?

KILLIAN

Through the floor. Dragged. Across
the metal. Dragged screaming.
Dragged dying...

RAYNOR

Dragged by what?

KILLIAN

Whatever they were... they were metal. Complicated. Lots of pieces, lots of parts. Power. Felt like.

RAYNOR

Machines? Mechs?

KILLIAN

Yes and no. Fast. Lethal. Metal covering metal. The inside was familiar. Outside... No kind I have ever felt.

(then)

Been all through this galaxy. Seen things that makes the blood ice. These were... altogether different.

FREED

How did you make it back to the Crichton?

KILLIAN

With no little effort. And not without being followed. Knew where I was. However it hunts, it is thorough.

RAYNOR

You didn't undock?

KILLIAN

No time. Did the only thing I could figure. Sealed myself in the prisoner pod. Energy shield. Titanium housing.

RAYNOR

You hoped the pod would hide you. Hoped it couldn't see inside it.

KILLIAN

Rolled the dice. Paid off. Rolled the dice someone would come along, too. And then there you were. My angel.

RAYNOR

And that's it? You didn't see anything else? No clue what's on this ship, what it does?

KILLIAN

Did not see. Was not told. But...
ship like this, self-sufficient,
expensive, only made for one
thing. Opening doors, digging up
secrets.

RAYNOR

Research. Yeah... I think you're
right about that.

They look at each other.

FREED

Bloody tears...
(then)
If the people on board this ship,
the crew, whoever, if they...
started this EDP...? Should we...?

KILLIAN

Think about letting it finish?
Problem is, that finishes us too.

RAYNOR

I don't care what's on this boat,
or who did what to who. Nothing
Killian said changes anything.
Stopping this ship from burning to
pieces is the only way we get what
we were offered. After that, it's
M-D's problem.

FREED

Fine. But how do we do it?

RAYNOR

Like the Codex said. Deactivate
the security lockdown, restore
ship functions, pull it out of
orbit.

KILLIAN

Guessing disabling the lockdown,
more complicated than pulling a
switch.

CODEX

Alert. The security lockdown is
disabled by entering an eleven
digit code into the security
terminal located on the ship's
bridge.

FREED

Oh. Well, alright then. What's the code?

CODEX

The disablement code cycles every twenty minutes, and is long beamed to this ship from a Maas-Dorian quantum entanglement server. This device can receive it.

FREED

You have the code already? Well, shit, all we have to do is get to the bridge then.

RAYNOR

There's a rub. Guarantee it.

CODEX

Unfortunately, the bridge is sealed as a result of the Condition 3 Security Lockdown. It can only be accessed through high level crew biometric clearance.

RAYNOR

Told you.

FREED

Uh-huh... And can the be accessed without biometric clearance? Through, let's say... illicit means?

CODEX

It is possible a encoder device could be installed with a high level biometric override in the Halo's security station.

FREED

I'm really starting to like this thing. Where's this station?

CODEX

Codex objective data unlocked.

The wrist devices project holograms into the air.

RAYNOR

More maps?

KILLIAN

Appears so.

The map keeps forming, displaying more and more data.

FREED

These are more detailed than the last ones the Codex showed us. Rooms, access points, infrastructure.

RAYNOR

Said it before, this ship is huge.

FREED

Look at this... ring. Around the outermost sections. That's the hallway we went through?

CODEX

Correct. Experimental vessel XTX-38523 is comprised of three levels of varying internal structure. The surface level circumnavigates the interior levels and is called the Halo.

RAYNOR

One long, circular hallway. With a few branching corridors and a lot of rooms.

CODEX

The Halo contains non-mission sensitive components. The bridge. Crew quarters. Recreation. Mess hall. Medical bay. Storage. Engineering. Security. The engine room. Airlocks. As well as various maintenance and logistics--

RAYNOR

What are the other levels?

CODEX

The second internal level of the ship is the Grid. The deepest is the Core. Both are mission critical to the ship's purpose.

FREED

But what's in them?

CODEX

Alert. Codex information sealed.
Information is not mission
imperative.

FREED

Bloody tears...

RAYNOR

We're losing track here. Codex,
where's the security station?

The hologram flashes again.

FREED

That's a navigation path, looks
like. From here... all the way...
to here. Codex, this spot is the
station?

CODEX

Correct.

RAYNOR

That's a long way to go with that
thing out there.

KILLIAN

Not mentioning, still have to make
the bridge after you get the code.

FREED

Good news there... Looks like the
bridge is right above the security
station. Two levels. Reached by an
elevator.

RAYNOR

How do we get this... biometric
override?

FREED

I'd guess from a terminal inside
the station. It will be able to
encode the override onto a device,
with a variety of clearance
levels. Kind of thing you'd give
to a visiting executive or ISD
agent.

RAYNOR

Kind of thing Blayne would already
have had on him.

FREED

Yeah...

RAYNOR

You can do this?

FREED

I think so. We'll probably have to repower the security station, same way we did this room. Use a distributor to block the signal. I have one left.

KILLIAN

Then get to the bridge, access it, enter the code. Might mean climbing that shaft.

RAYNOR

The way today's been going, that would be on the easier side of the spectrum. What's this here on the map? By the security station? "Aperture".

KILLIAN

Had to guess... I'd say security access point for the deeper levels.

RAYNOR

(to herself)
Aperture...

CODEX

The computer core, Aperture access point, security offices, and bridge are contained in an isolated security zone, as is the engine room. These rooms do not rotate with the rest of the Halo.

RAYNOR

Rotate?

CODEX

Correct. The Halo is designed to rotate to accommodate distance travel, in addition to the tramway.

FREED

You're saying the entire Halo with its rooms rotate around the ship?

CODEX

Correct. The Halo is designed to rotate, to accommodate distance travel, in addition to the tramway.

RAYNOR

I've never seen a ship design like this, and we're only looking at a third of it here. Who knows what's on these other levels?

CODEX

New mission imperative: deactivate security lockdown. Normalize ship orbit.

FREED

Yeah, yeah...

RAYNOR

Codex, turning off the lockdown will deactivate the security apparatus?

CODEX

Correct. The Halo security apparatus's function is directly tied to the Condition 3 Security Lockdown.

RAYNOR

So, deactivate the lockdown... get rid of our big friend out there.

The sound of the apparatus, in the distance.

KILLIAN

To speak of...

Killian bends down, touches the floor.

FREED

What is he--?

RAYNOR

Quiet.

A humming, the sound of power.

KILLIAN

Coming this way. Not slowly.

He stands up.

FREED

He can--?

RAYNOR

Yeah. He can. How long?

KILLIAN

Few minutes, my guess.

FREED

I get the circular ring orientation of the Halo. Makes moving from any point to any other point a linear affair. With that thing patrolling, it's almost impossible to avoid, no matter how fast you are.

KILLIAN

Has the advantage, to be sure. Need a plan.

RAYNOR

The Halo... rotates...

Raynor thinks.

RAYNOR

If the Halo rotates... then it's on some kind of massive track system. It would run the length of the ship, all the mechanics that move the thing in a loop.

FREED

You think... we could get into that track infrastructure?

KILLIAN

Would have to be accessible. Maintenance, repairs.

RAYNOR

Codex...

CODEX

Query?

RAYNOR

Can the security apparatus move within the rotation track infrastructure for the Halo?

CODEX

No. Its movement is limited to the main corridor and component structures of the Halo.

RAYNOR

Is there an access point to the Halo track system in this room?

CODEX

Yes. The Dry Storage 1 access point to the interior infrastructure is located here.

The sound of the hologram flashing, showing data.

The sound of the apparatus, louder now, coming fast.

RAYNOR

(urgent)

North west corner... Let's go.

They all run for it, reach the area.

FREED

I don't see anything.

RAYNOR

Me either...

Killian touches the wall, feels along it. A humming.

KILLIAN

Here...

The sound of a hatch opening.

The sound of the apparatus. Then, the sound of the wall lifting up and open at the other end of the room.

RAYNOR

Okay. Get in.

Freed moves in, then Raynor follows.

FREED

It would be nice, at some point, in all this, wouldn't it? To actually have options?

RAYNOR

It would...

The sound of the apparatus, moving into the room.

Raynor slams the hatch shut, seals it.

INT. HALO TRACK INFRASTRUCTURE

Raynor and Freed move in the tight confines of the Halo track. It's slow going.

FREED

Yep... Yeah, this is happening.
This is... something.

They keep moving, an inch at a time.

FREED

I thought it was going to be, you know... walkable? A walkable track... tunnel thing. Or a crawl space at least? This wasn't... This wasn't meant for moving long distances.

RAYNOR

Kind of the point.

They keep moving, pressing forward.

FREED

Crammed like sardines. Stopped feeling my legs about ten minutes ago. Still have oil in my hair, too. Got a feeling... always have oil in my hair. Maybe it's hydrating? You think?

RAYNOR

(annoyed)
Can you please just...

FREED

Sorry. Sorry. I talk. When I get anxious. I... talk. A lot. I don't drink anymore, I used to. You know, a lot. It's kind of a... kind of a substitute. The talking. Not a good one, though. Because, you know, it... doesn't really help. At all.

A sound now. Something metallic banging, hard, on something else metallic. It echoes up and down the confines.

RAYNOR

Shit. Be quiet...

They both freeze, stop moving.

Just the sounds of their breathing.

Then...

From the other side of the wall, a sound.

The apparatus. Everything rumbles as it moves by.
Listening. Looking.

Raynor and Freed breathe, frightened.

Then, eventually, it moves on, the sound disappears.

FREED

Is it...?

RAYNOR

Wait.

Another few moments. Then the banging again, from ahead of them.

RAYNOR

It's gone.

FREED

Bloody tears...

They start moving again, inching through the tight confines.

FREED

Killian. Taking the lead. Banging on the track if he feels that thing coming. With his knives.

RAYNOR

That was the plan.

FREED

You don't seem particularly bothered by it.

RAYNOR

Him taking point?

FREED

No. How he does it. The... whole... feeling through metal thing.

RAYNOR

Well... I don't have any control over it, and it's, so far, benefited us. So I'm focusing on the things that I can control.

They keep moving.

FREED

It's not just feeling through metal either. How do you think he opened both doors back on the Crichton? The ship's airlock door and the derelict's?

RAYNOR

I don't know.

FREED

Well, it wasn't super strength. He barely touched them. It was like he used some kind of... magnetic...

RAYNOR

I don't know.

FREED

Then the whole moving without being able to see? He is blind, Raynor, he is--

RAYNOR

What are you looking for me to say?

FREED

That it's super fucking over the top weird. We don't know anything about him, except he sealed himself in a prisoner pod on his own ship and has a rap sheet six times as long as mine, which is saying something.

Raynor frowns. They keep moving.

FREED

(carefully)

Just seems to me, as a matter of observation... that you are very willing to trust, even if it's not in your best interest.

(MORE)

FREED (CONT'D)

As long as it gets you closer to what you want.

RAYNOR

And you're not?

FREED

Trust is... not my thing.

RAYNOR

Trusting completely and not trusting at all are both dangerous. Extreme situations like this, you have to start making allowances, one way or another.

FREED

Yeah? This kind of thing happen to you a lot?

Raynor frowns again.

RAYNOR

Of course not.

FREED

Could have fooled me. The way you took charge.

RAYNOR

I'm not in charge.

FREED

You're the only one left saying that. These dumb Codex things even think you're running the show.

(softer)

Truth is... You're pretty damn good at it. What's the hesitation?

They keep moving in the cramped space.

FREED

You mentioned your son before.

(then)

Is that part of it?

RAYNOR

Just... Don't. Okay?

(then)

Killian had his fucking giant hand around my throat.

(MORE)

RAYNOR (CONT'D)

Then he made me put a screwdriver against his. He asked me questions, I answered him. I think we have an understanding. And yes, it is about my son. I don't you expect to understand that, so I won't bother explaining it.

They keep moving, in quiet now. Then...

FREED

I, uh... had a son. Once. Too.

They keep moving. Raynor is quiet. Then...

RAYNOR

Had?

FREED

Had. For about... an hour.

They keep moving. Raynor breathes out.

RAYNOR

I didn't know that. I'm sorry.

They keep moving.

FREED

The things we tell ourselves we don't want, you know? Then, when we get them, when they're put in our arms, briefly even...

(then)

I don't know.

They keep moving.

RAYNOR

I wish I would have had your epiphany. When they let me hold Sean. But I didn't. He just felt... heavy. So heavy...

(then)

He was... beyond resilient.

FREED

With what?

RAYNOR

With me. Not being there. Not paying attention. Not putting him first.

(then)

And then... it all went to shit. And they took him. And...

FREED

Epiphany.

RAYNOR

Yeah...

They keep moving.

RAYNOR

I think... I think being in charge scares me, because... I've failed at so much. I've broken so many things.

(then)

This job... It's important. I can't blow it. And if it comes down to me... I think I will.

Freed studies her as she moves.

FREED

You know, you trust the guy up there. You trust me, seems like. Chambers. Trusted Stevens, even.

(then)

At a certain point, Raynor... you're going to have to trust yourself.

They keep moving. Raynor says nothing.

A shuffling from in front of them. Killian appears in the tunnel.

KILLIAN

Exit. Just ahead. Right one, I think.

FREED

Thank God...

RAYNOR

The apparatus?

KILLIAN
Other side of the boat. For the
moment.

RAYNOR
Then let's do this quick.

Raynor starts working on the hatch out of the maintenance
tunnel.

Killian looks at Freed. She looks back.

KILLIAN
You are not wrong.

FREED
About what?

KILLIAN
Super fucking over the top weird.

Freed swallows.

FREED
You... heard that.

Killian chuckles, low and slow. It's unsettling.

Raynor gets the hatch open.

RAYNOR
Got it. Let's go.

They all move in the tight confines, pushing through the
hatch, into...

INT. APERTURE ACCESS POINT

They enter from the shaft. Their voices echo, as if the
room is very large.

KILLIAN
What are we seeing?

RAYNOR
Not very much. It's almost pitch
black. No power, no lights.

FREED
Headlamps...

RAYNOR
Yeah.

They flip switches on their headlamps, light the room up. Barely.

FREED

This room's huge. Can't see one end to the other.

Strange sounds echo around them. Like something huge and metallic, shifting under its own weight.

FREED

Where are we?

They keep moving, their footsteps echoing.

Then their lights find something...

FREED

Bloody tears...

RAYNOR

What is that...? Is that...?

KILLIAN

Had to guess... would say it is a door.

Raynor moves slowly towards the door, staring almost in awe.

FREED

(unnerved)

One hell of a door...

RAYNOR

Codex.

CODEX

Query?

RAYNOR

Is this the Aperture?

CODEX

Correct. You are currently in the Aperture access point.

RAYNOR

And what's on the other side of it?

CODEX

The Aperture controls access to the deeper parts of the ship, specifically the Grid, the primary research deck.

FREED

Why on Earth would anything need a door this big?

KILLIAN

Doors, my experience, generally a statement about what it's trying to keep out... or in.

Raynor keeps moving.

FREED

Don't touch it! Raynor!

RAYNOR

It's okay...

FREED

What if it opens?

RAYNOR

I think there's probably a lot more to it than that...

She touches the door.

FREED

Raynor...

Raynor gasps, withdraws her hand.

RAYNOR

It's... Jesus, it's freezing.

(then)

Codex, is the environment on the other side of the Aperture a lowered temperature?

CODEX

Alert. Codex information sealed. Information is not mission imperative.

RAYNOR

Typical...

KILLIAN

Sealed or not... it has been
accessed not all that long ago.

FREED

What do you mean?

KILLIAN

The floor. In front of it. Should
be marks there. See them?

They move around, look.

FREED

He's right... They're... streaks.
Like, black streaks? One on top of
the other, dozens of them.

RAYNOR

Like things were dragged through
the door...

(then)

Follow them backwards, how far do
they go?

Freed moves. So does Raynor. Scanning with their lights.

FREED

Looks like... They go to the main
door, out into the corridor
beyond. And to the left...

(then)

What is it? Oil?

KILLIAN

Blood. Dried. Blackened.

FREED

What? How can you know that?

KILLIAN

Can feel the metal, what it
touches, what's touching it; us,
dust, air if it's moving fast
enough. But blood... Iron laced.
Iron on steel has a... sharp,
slick feel.

(then)

Is blood. Rest assured.

RAYNOR

If so, this is dozens of people.

FREED
Bloody tears...

RAYNOR
Dozens of people... maybe more...
dragged through the door.

KILLIAN
Right before it shut behind them.

FREED
Is that why... we haven't seen
anyone yet? Dead or alive? No
bodies? No survivors? Were they...
dragged through this?

They all stare at the door.

They all jump as the very loud sound of a deep powerful
impact echoes sharply into the room.

FREED
Holy...

Then Raynor groans in pain as electromagnetics blossom
painfully to life in her head.

FREED
Something... hit the door? On the
other side?

KILLIAN
Sounds like.

The EM stops ripping through Raynor. She breathes, groans,
balances.

FREED
Raynor?

RAYNOR
It's okay... Just... got some...
(then)
It's good. It's-- It's good.

The sound of the apparatus, suddenly, in the far distance.

RAYNOR
Killian?

He kneels down, touches the floor.

KILLIAN
Not coming for us. Yet...

RAYNOR

Let's get this done before it
does. Where's the security
station?

FREED

Should be this way...

They all start moving, fast.

RAYNOR

This door?

FREED

No. That's the computer core.

They keep moving.

FREED

And that's the bridge elevator.

They keep moving.

FREED

Here...

RAYNOR

No handle.

FREED

Yeah, they're automated doors.

She tries spreading them with her hands. They're locked.

FREED

Won't budge.

(then)

Wall separating us is glass,
though. Can't see through it, it's
tinted. Could break it?

RAYNOR

It's reinforced, I guarantee. We'd
need power drills and about an
hour.

FREED

Well, there's a card reader. I can
probably tap into the maintenance
BIOS.

She sets her pack down, rummages through it.

RAYNOR
Like the airlock.

FREED
Like the airlock. Hopefully, I can
do this one a little faster.

The sound of the apparatus, in the distance.

RAYNOR
Yeah. Before this thing doubles
back. Feels like we've gotten
really lucky so far.

Sparks from the panel Freed is working on.

FREED
Luck...
(then)
Anybody in this group really
believe in that anymore?

The panel sparks. And then... the doors open. Allowing
entry into the room beyond.

They step into...

INT. HALO SECURITY STATION

They are greeted by the sounds of sparks and debris and
flames.

The room is basically destroyed. Bullet holes litter the
walls and ceiling. Computers are smashed and blown apart.
Blood has sprayed everywhere.

RAYNOR
Oh... God...
(then)
This place is ripped to shreds.
It's like a bomb went off in here.

KILLIAN
No bomb. Combat. Up close type.

FREED
He's right. Walls are covered in
bullet holes. So's the ceiling.

RAYNOR
Blood. But no bodies...

FREED
Dragged away...?

RAYNOR
Was this you too?

KILLIAN
Once we boarded, we split into two groups. Mine headed for the engine room. The other for security. No idea what happened when they got here, but... rampant destruction was not the plan. Something went wrong.

The lights flicker on above them. Some burst into sparks as they do.

FREED
And continues to...

RAYNOR
The lights are coming on.

The lights keep flickering. The room powers up.

RAYNOR
(panicked)
The room is powering up! Why is the room powering up?

FREED
It must have something to do with the door. Maybe the security station has a special override--

The sound of the apparatus. For off. Loud. Angry.

KILLIAN
Should I bother to check?

RAYNOR
No. Let's encode an override and get back to the Halo track. Where's the terminal you were talking about?

FREED
I mean... The place is blown to hell.

RAYNOR
Well, let's look.

They look around the destroyed room.

RAYNOR
Killian, how long do we have?

KILLIAN
Maybe... six minutes, has to
travel the distance. But it is
fast.

RAYNOR
Then we're out of here in five.
Either way.

They push into the torn up room.

FREED
Start turning over terminals! The
ones on the floor. The ones still
standing aren't it.

We hear them crashing through the debris, turning over the
terminals on the floor.

RAYNOR
What does it look like?

FREED
Like a normal terminal... but
it'll have an encoder input. Like
a keycard entry point.

The sound of the them pushing through the debris,
searching.

RAYNOR
Hey... Hey! This one? Is this it?

Freed pushes through the debris.

FREED
That's it! Killian, help stand it
up.

They all push it upright.

FREED
It looks... well... It might power
up. But...
(then)
Oh, shit...

RAYNOR
What?

FREED

The encoder input. Look at it.
It's... melted.

RAYNOR

That's bad.

FREED

Very. We can't encode anything
with it. It's useless.

The sound of the apparatus in the distance.

KILLIAN

Thing is picking up speed. Coming
hard.

RAYNOR

There has to be a way...

(then)

Are you sure it only encodes
physical media?

FREED

That's the intention. Why?

Raynor thinks...

RAYNOR

The Codex said it receives the
lockdown deactivation code
remotely.

FREED

Yeah... So?

RAYNOR

Codex.

CODEX

Query?

RAYNOR

Can our wrist devices receive
encrypted character codes? Like an
encoder device?

CODEX

This device can wirelessly
receive, store, and subsequently
broadcast multiple-bit character
codes, mirroring the use of
security keycards and encoders.

RAYNOR

Hot damn...

FREED

Okay. Okay... But this terminal isn't set up for wireless data transfer or encryption, I'd have to find a way to alter--

RAYNOR

Skipping the explanation, can you do it?

FREED

I think so. But...

The sound of the apparatus. On its way.

FREED

I don't think in time. I don't think we could make it back to the Halo track.

RAYNOR

Codex, is there another exit out of the security station? One the security apparatus can't use?

CODEX

There is a utility maintenance shaft under the floor in the center of the room. However, it only runs from the security station to the bridge elevator shaft. It does not reconnect with the Halo infrastructure track.

KILLIAN

Possible we get trapped in there.

RAYNOR

We'll risk it. Elevator shaft to the bridge is where we want to go anyway. Freed, work on the terminal. Killian, help me find the entrance to this tunnel.

KILLIAN

Yes, ma'am...

FREED

I need tools. And parts. I need--

The sound of the apparatus.

RAYNOR
Then get on with it!

FREED
Bloody tears...

They all move their respective ways.

RAYNOR
Can you feel the hatch?

KILLIAN
Yes. But. Not a hatch. Bolted down
panel.
(then)
They're hex bolts, feels like. M3.

RAYNOR
Got it.

She moves off, pushing through the debris.

Raynor starts rummaging through the bin.

The sound of the apparatus. Much louder now.

FREED
God, that sounds like it's almost
here.

Raynor pulls something from the cabinet. A drill and bits.
She moves back for Killian.

Killian groans as he lifts something heavy from the
floor...

The object he lifts tilts and falls, crashes out of the
way.

RAYNOR
Thanks...

We hear the sound of the drill, start to unscrew bolts. One
at a time.

The apparatus, again.

RAYNOR
I don't know if we're going to
make this...

More screws coming out.

RAYNOR

Freed?

FREED

Getting there, have to hard wire
in a transmitter, pulling it off
another unit. It... most likely
will work.

RAYNOR

Encouraging...

The bolts keep spinning out.

RAYNOR

One more bolt. You're sure this is
the access? Could just be a floor
panel.

Killian says nothing. Raynor looks up at him.

RAYNOR

Killian?

KILLIAN

Quiet...

Raynor's drill stops.

RAYNOR

Freed, stop working.

FREED

But--

RAYNOR

Just stop.

Everything goes quiet.

There is a rumbling, from the near distance.

RAYNOR

It's here...

KILLIAN

Down! Down now!

Then the glass wall out into the corridor explodes in glass
shards, and the sound of something like a dozen thick
cables shoot into the room.

Sparks as machines are punctured hard by something sharp on
the edge of the cables. Others ricochet around the room.

FREED

Holy--!

KILLIAN

Stay down!

Another second, and then the cables are ripped backwards out of the room. The ones that punctured things are yanked back hard, crashing through everything else.

KILLIAN

Cables. Felt like.

RAYNOR

With spear points on the end.

KILLIAN

Barbed spears. Whatever they punch through... gets hard pulled back to that thing.

FREED

Oh, lord...

The apparatus sounds its disturbing trumpet.

KILLIAN

Incoming!

The cables fly in again, slamming into the room.

Raynor yells as one of them slices her arm.

FREED

Raynor!

RAYNOR

I'm okay...

The cables are yanked backwards.

RAYNOR

Just got my arm... That thing's fishing for us.

Raynor starts unscrewing the last bolt.

RAYNOR

Freed, get over here. This isn't going to work.

FREED

I almost have it...

RAYNOR
I don't care. Killian help me get
this up.

Killian moves towards her...

...and then more cables burst in, then rip back out,
slicing the air.

RAYNOR
God damn. Freed! Now!

FREED
I almost have it!

RAYNOR
Freed--

FREED
If we don't get this we're
screwed!

Raynor stares back.

FREED
Well, aren't we?

KILLIAN
Has a point.

FREED
I can do it...

They stare at each other a moment.

FREED
I can do it.

RAYNOR
Then do it.

The cables burst into the room again. Crash around.

RAYNOR
Okay. Fine.
(then)
Codex, since the apparatus is
shooting through what's left of
the wall, I'm assuming it can't
get in here?

CODEX

Correct. In the Halo isolated security zone, the apparatus's movement is limited to the Aperture access point.

The cables are yanked back out violently.

KILLIAN

Got an inkling, hopefully?

RAYNOR

Maybe... Codex, the wall into the corridor. It's glass. Or it was. Are there blast shields or emergency shutters for it?

CODEX

Correct. The room contains electronically sealed blast shutters.

KILLIAN

You're thinking, bring those down, stop the cable fire.

RAYNOR

Probably just temporarily, that thing seems to have the answer for everything, but it might buy us enough time.

KILLIAN

How do we drop them?

RAYNOR

They're electronic. Should just be a switch, near the wall.

(then)

Yeah. Across the room.

KILLIAN

Hate to say... May be a better job for you.

RAYNOR

Figured you were going to say that.

(then)

Freed, how we doing?

FREED

Uploading now! 6%.

The cables explode back into the room, ricochet everywhere.

KILLIAN
Good luck.

RAYNOR
Thanks!

Raynor is up, moving, running, pushing through debris.

Raynor yells as she runs...

...jumps, crashes against the wall...

...right as the cables are yanked back out of the room,
spear tips cutting the air.

RAYNOR
Made it! Made it...
(then)
Here we go...

She hits the button.

A confirmation tone...

...then the emergency shutters begin to lower.

RAYNOR
Got 'em!

And then the sound of the shutters stopping their movement.

RAYNOR
Uh...

Then the sound of them RAISING BACK UP.

FREED
They're raising back up!

RAYNOR
I see that!

KILLIAN
The machine...

FREED
Fibre optics connect it to the
rooms, remember? Probably can--

RAYNOR
Control the shutters, yeah!
(MORE)

RAYNOR (CONT'D)

(then)

Can you maybe--

FREED

No! One thing at a time!

The cables shoot into the room again, sparking against the walls and machines.

The apparatus sounds its noise.

KILLIAN

Chain that runs the shutters?
Where? Behind the walls?

RAYNOR

Should be. Why?

The cables are yanked out again, blowing debris everywhere.

Killian is up and moving.

RAYNOR

What are you doing?

KILLIAN

Feel them... Stay there.

Killian touches the wall.

The sound of humming... Killian groans, in pain.

RAYNOR

What are you doing?

KILLIAN

The pulleys... Dislodging them.
Pulling them loose.

RAYNOR

From the other side of the--?

The cables blow into the room again.

This time, one of them hits Killian in the side.

He yells in pain.

FREED

Killian!

KILLIAN

Okay. It's okay. Still here.

The humming keeps building...

The cables are yanked back out of the room.

KILLIAN
Here it comes...

Then something snaps behind the wall.

The shutters SLAM DOWN, sealing them off.

Killian falls to the floor, holds his side.

Raynor runs to him.

RAYNOR
Are you okay?

KILLIAN
Will live.

He starts to stand.

RAYNOR
You're bleeding pretty--

KILLIAN
Will live.

RAYNOR
Okay then.

She moves back to the center of the room.

The sound of the cables hitting the shutters outside. They don't penetrate.

FREED
Shutters are holding.

RAYNOR
For now. How are you doing?

FREED
62%.

RAYNOR
Killian, help me with the floor panel again.

They lift it up and off. Raynor peers in.

RAYNOR
Oh, damn.

KILLIAN

What?

RAYNOR

Electric cables, yeah. But also water pipes. The pipes will be hot. Like before.

She looks at him.

RAYNOR

This is going to hurt.

The sound of new things, maybe a dozen, hitting and sticking onto the shutters.

RAYNOR

Uh oh...

KILLIAN

Some things may hurt more.

Explosions ring out. Multiple. The shutters are ripped to pieces, spraying debris.

Raynor and Killian fall to the floor. Groan as they get back up...

KILLIAN

Explosives, some kind. It's through the shutters.

RAYNOR

That was fast...
(then)
Freed?!

FREED

85%...

The cables shoot back in, blow through the room.

RAYNOR

I think we're in trouble.

KILLIAN

I'll go first, check the way, make sure it's even passable.

RAYNOR

Do it.

Killian squeezes into the crawlspace.

RAYNOR
Freed!

FREED
92...

The cables are yanked out of the room.

RAYNOR
Freed! We have to go now!

FREED
Almost got it...

RAYNOR
Freed!

FREED
Almost...

RAYNOR
Freed, God damn--!

A confirmation tone.

FREED
Got it! Got it!

CODEX
Alert. Biometric override ID
loaded onto all Codex devices.

RAYNOR
Great! Awesome! Move!

Raynor climbs into the crawl space next.

Freed is running.

FREED
Got it!
(then)
What did I tell you?! Did I tell
you?! Or did I not...

The sound of the cables punching into the room.

And then, the sound of one of the cable spears PUNCHING
INTO Freed.

She groans, staggers back.

She stares down at the cable stuck into her body.

RAYNOR
Freed...

FREED
...tell you?

Raynor stares in horror, stunned.

FREED
Well. Damn...

She looks at Raynor. Raynor looks back.

RAYNOR
Freed...

The cables are yanked back. Freed yells as she lurches through the air, flying out of the room into the hall beyond.

RAYNOR
Freed!

The apparatus sounds.

RAYNOR
Freed!

The sound of more explosive charges landing in the room, all around them.

RAYNOR
Oh, damn it...

Raynor groans in anguish, ducks into...

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL

...right as the explosives ignite.

She's blown forward, into the tunnel.

And then she yells in pain, crawling over the hot pipes, no choice but to keep moving forward.

Eventually, she makes it to...

INT. UTILITY JUNCTION

...and falls out of the tunnel into a small junction room.

She breathes hard, in pain, emotional, stunned, exhausted.

RAYNOR
Damn it! Damn it! Damn it!

KILLIAN
Let me see.

RAYNOR
Stay away from me!

Raynor groans.

KILLIAN
Let me see.

Killian looks at her wounds, the ones on the outside.

KILLIAN
Doesn't look so bad.

She stares up at him, emotional.

RAYNOR
It is...

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL JUNCTION

Killian enters the power junction from the crawlspace above them, lands on the floor.

Raynor doesn't look at him. Just stares into space.

KILLIAN
Needed a more direct source, for
the feel. All the voltage here...
Disruptive.

Raynor, when she speaks, sounds defeated, emotionless.

RAYNOR
Still out there.

KILLIAN
It is. Waiting. Knows we're
here... or guessing. But does not
feel to be going anywhere.

RAYNOR
Just like us.

KILLIAN
We got the biometrics override.
Got what we wanted. Didn't we?

Raynor stares into space.

RAYNOR
You didn't... feel her?

KILLIAN
Tried. Felt into the security station. Few times. Nothing moving. She is gone. Like it or not, is the way of things.

RAYNOR
(bitter)
The way of things...

KILLIAN
Dangerous tasks, are we engaged. Expected them to go differently?

RAYNOR
It's... my fault. I knew we should have left. We could have... gotten back into the Halo track, had more options, but I let her convince me.

KILLIAN
Sound of it, as I recall... what she wanted too. Don't get to own the choices of others.

RAYNOR
Doesn't matter. She'd be alive, if it wasn't for me. So would Chambers. I led everyone right off the cliff...
(then)
Everything I touch... wilts.

Killian says nothing, listens.

RAYNOR
But I have... so much to fix.

KILLIAN
Some things, angel, can't be fixed. And all the trying just destroys us. Believe you me...

RAYNOR
How do you... know the difference?
How do you know which is which?

KILLIAN

Mmmmm. Only in the trying. Succeed
or fail. That is the pendulum.

Raynor says nothing. Leans against the wall.

RAYNOR

I don't think... I believe.
Anymore.

KILLIAN

Believe what?

RAYNOR

That things can change. That it's
okay to hope. I haven't... felt
hope in so long I don't remember
it.

The sounds of EM in her head. She moans in pain.

RAYNOR

All I feel now... is pain. I'm
scared that's all that's left...

Killian studies her.

KILLIAN

You and I... Both of us... carved
in mayhem. Defined in shadow. Came
to believe, though... is not
beyond change. Our worlds... not
set in stone.

(then)

Let me show you.

Then he reaches for her.

RAYNOR

(half-hearted)

Wait. No...

KILLIAN

Trust me. Be still.

His hands find her, pull her.

RAYNOR

Stop. Killian. No, what...

KILLIAN

Be still, angel.....

RAYNOR

Stop...

His hands go around her head.

KILLIAN

Be still...

There is a gentle hum... as his powers, whatever they are, however they work, activate.

RAYNOR

(alarmed)

Killian... What are you--

Raynor shudders, breathes out, long and slow, as the pain, in her head, for the first time she can remember in who knows how long... dissolves away.

RAYNOR

Oh... my God...

Raynor relaxes in his grasp.

KILLIAN

Barest bit of the effect... Lifts up the nanobots in your gray matter. Not all the way, a delicate balance, just slightly, gentle like. But... Takes the weight...

RAYNOR

Oh... my God...

Tears come to her eyes. The relief is amazing.

KILLIAN

Just a glimpse. Of how things used to be. Of before. Before the choices. Before the pain... All I can offer.

(then)

Sometimes, though, a glimpse... it is enough.

Raynor breathes out in relief, the pain, unfathomably, gone...

KILLIAN

In my life, I have done things,
angel, that would give you pause,
and none of it can be redeemed. It
is done.

(then)

But I was shown, there is nothing
out there, nothing we have chosen
or believed or endured, that,
tomorrow... cannot be different.
No matter how far down our roads
we may so be.

Raynor sits in his arms another moment... And then the
humming stops. Killian stops the effect.

Raynor exhales. Emotional.

KILLIAN

That is hope...

She looks at him.

RAYNOR

Killian...

KILLIAN

Just truth, angel. Up to you what
to do with it.

She keeps looking at him.

RAYNOR

The pain...

KILLIAN

Just a glimpse. Like I said. Only
lasts an hour or so.

RAYNOR

You've done this... before.

KILLIAN

Watch someone you love in pain...
very little you will not do.

Raynor moans as she sits up, out of Killian's grasp.

KILLIAN

This is not the end, angel.

(then)

But must ride the pendulum. Same
as everyone else.

She breathes, thinks. Then...

RAYNOR
Pendulum...

Something about it...

RAYNOR
Codex...

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
You said before... The apparatus
controls the security lockdown for
the Halo?

CODEX
Correct. It oversees the
functioning of the Halo lockdown.
If it determines all threats have
been eliminated it deactivates,
and the lockdown is disengaged.

RAYNOR
How does the system know if the
apparatus has been deactivated?

CODEX
The security apparatus continually
broadcasts a threat signal
received by various sensors
installed throughout the Halo. If
these sensors stop receiving the
signal, the security lockdown is
deactivated. If it is deactivated
by Maas-Dorian First Contact Teams
or ISD assets, the lockdown is
disengaged.

Raynor thinks to herself.

KILLIAN
And you are thinking?

RAYNOR
Nothing remotely sane...
(then)
Codex... theoretically... if we
were to destroy the security
apparatus, then the signal would
stop broadcasting.

(MORE)

RAYNOR (CONT'D)

Would the ship's systems interpret that as an all clear and disengage the lockdown?

CODEX

Correct.

KILLIAN

Now we're talking...

RAYNOR

Codex, the apparatus is designed to basically go everywhere in the ship. Can it go inside elevator shafts?

CODEX

Correct. The security apparatus can traverse the Halo's various vertical levels. As such, it can connect to and use the elevator infrastructure to move between them.

RAYNOR

(to Killian)

This tunnel goes two places. Back to the security station. And to the elevator shaft.

KILLIAN

You're thinking... A mousetrap?

RAYNOR

More like a hammer and anvil. Codex, how much does the elevator weigh that travels to the ship's bridge?

CODEX

The bridge access elevator car weighs 8.2 tons.

RAYNOR

And how high is the shaft?

CODEX

The bridge access lift shaft extends upwards a length of 78 feet.

RAYNOR
Dropping from that height, you're
looking at that weight falling...
I don't know, 200 kilometers an
hour?

KILLIAN
Hell of a hammer.

RAYNOR
I don't care how well designed
that thing is, no one built it to
withstand an impact like that.

KILLIAN
Not likely. Problems remain,
though... Luring it into position.
Dropping the hammer.

RAYNOR
I have thoughts on that, too.

Killian chuckles.

KILLIAN
Mayhem...

RAYNOR
Let's go crush this son of a
bitch.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL

Raynor is working on pulling something loose, from where
it's attached.

Killian's voice comes over the comms.

KILLIAN
Made the security station...
Inside.

RAYNOR
Apparatus?

KILLIAN
Can feel it, end of the hall, as
before. Maybe not detecting me.
Maybe playing a game. We'll see.

RAYNOR

Almost ready... here. Getting the power cells out... Going to take three of them.

KILLIAN

The acid inside. Strong enough?

RAYNOR

These power cells use fluorosulfuric acid. It's a super acid. Could burn through the cables by itself, eventually, but I have a base chemical set in my pack, including... some antimony pentafluoride. Mix the two... you have acidic molecular dissolution on a scale that is frightening.

KILLIAN

Got the legs to climb the shaft with that weight?

RAYNOR

Yeah. I'll do it. Took my pack apart, made some straps. Going to tie the cells together.

She pulls a cell free.

RAYNOR

Your vibroblade... To use it... It needs have momentum, right? To cut?

KILLIAN

Try and cut slow, vibrations actually repel the blade. Needs intention. Commitment. Reason why... it is my weapon of choice. No commitment, got no business using it.

RAYNOR

Yeah... Okay...

(then)

We really have to time this right. Once I get on top of the elevator, I'll cut every non-essential guide wire and cable with the vibroblade until it's barely hanging on.

(MORE)

RAYNOR (CONT'D)

Then pour the pentafluoride around the connections and break the acid seals on the power cells. The acid is under pressure, it will leak out and mix with the chemical, and then...

KILLIAN

Be somewhere else.

RAYNOR

Yeah... But we need the apparatus at the bottom of the lift, and probably all the way in.

KILLIAN

I'll get it there.

She pulls the last power cell free.

RAYNOR

You're going to be taking the brunt of that thing's attention.

KILLIAN

Thanks to the biometrics override and your little Codex, inside the armory now. Power rifles, pulse grenades... and shield barricades. Set those up, I can dig in, hopefully last awhile against whatever it throws my way, least long enough for you to rig the elevator. Then pull back, through the tunnel, come out in the elevator shaft, get its attention again, line it up on the anvil.

RAYNOR

Careful with my Codex device. She and I have been through a lot.

A pause.

KILLIAN

Have no doubt.

(then)

You ready?

Raynor finishes strapping the power cells together, hefts them up over her shoulder.

RAYNOR

Yeah...

(then)

Want you to know...

(then)

However this goes... I couldn't
have got this far without you.
And... before... You...

KILLIAN

Save it, angel. For later. See if
you still feel the same. Tell me
then.

RAYNOR

Fair enough.

She hefts the vibroblade, listens to it hum, puts it back
in her belt.

RAYNOR

Vibroblade is heavier than I
thought.

KILLIAN

Careful with it. She and I have
been through a lot.

Raynor smiles.

RAYNOR

I have no doubt.

KILLIAN

Barricades ready. Have a line of
sight on the machine.

Raynor nods, preparing herself.

RAYNOR

Hey Killian.

(then)

Don't get killed. Okay?

KILLIAN

Not my DNA...

(then)

Say when.

Raynor breathes out.

RAYNOR

When.

KILLIAN
Three... Two... One...

The sound of the rifle fire in the distance. The sound of explosions. The sound of the apparatus coming to life.

RAYNOR
Okay...

We hear her open the hatch, crawl into...

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT

Dark and big, the doors out into the Aperture access point are sealed.

The sounds of fighting are closer here, the apparatus just on the other side.

RAYNOR
Killian, I'm in the elevator shaft.
(then)
Good news is, the elevator is up the shaft. Bad news is... it's not at the top. Hard to see from here but looks a little lower than the bridge access door.

KILLIAN
High enough to slam this thing?

RAYNOR
Oh yeah...

She starts climbing the ladder.

RAYNOR
Climbing. How's our friend?

A moment.

KILLIAN
Its attention, do I have.

The sounds of fighting below and outside.

KILLIAN
Barricade shields holding. For now.

Raynor keeps climbing.

RAYNOR
 Going as fast as I can.
 (then)
 You were right. These cells are
 heavy.

She keeps climbing. The sounds of fighting.

New explosion sound, electrical like.

RAYNOR
 Was that... one of the pulse
 grenades?
 (then)
 Did it work?

KILLIAN
 Not really. As expected, the
 machine... magnetically shielded.

Raynor keeps climbing.

RAYNOR
 (to herself)
 Probably... should have considered
 that I don't like heights.

She keeps climbing. The sounds of fighting from below.

RAYNOR
 I'm under the elevator car. I see
 the access hatch. Hang in there.

She reaches, with effort, outwards. Grabs the latch to the
 hatch, twists it. It opens.

RAYNOR
 Okay...

Then leans out, grabs hold of the interior, swings off the
 ladder. She groans as the weight of the cells pulls at her.

Raynor pulls herself up in spite of it, climbing into...

INT. BRIDGE ELEVATOR CAR

Raynor climbs inside, on her back, breathing hard.

RAYNOR
 Made it... Made it...

She keeps breathing.

RAYNOR
Strange smell. Like... soldering
fumes. Pitch black too. Turning on
my head lamp...

We hear it click on...

...and then Raynor gasps in shock.

RAYNOR
Oh, God...

All around her, are bodies. Frozen and contorted in
different stages of agony.

RAYNOR
(frightened)
Bodies here... Half a dozen...
(then)
But... Jesus, they're blackened...
Like, covered in some kind of...
metallic... I don't know, they
look petrified, or...

She stands up in the lift, carefully avoiding the bodies.

RAYNOR
I think this is... part of the
bridge crew.

KILLIAN
Suggestion: analyze later.

Raynor swallows.

RAYNOR
Yeah... Yeah...
(then)
Opening the ceiling hatch.

She reaches up, opens the hatch.

Then she jumps up, grabs the top, pulls herself and out of
the lift, with the power cells, to...

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT

...and the top of the elevator.

RAYNOR
 Okay... I'm on top.
 (then)
 It's a... six cable system.
 They're all uniform, fortunately.
 (then)
 Going to cut four of these cables,
 then place the acid around the
 remaining two connections.

No response.

RAYNOR
 Killian?

KILLIAN
 Busy here. Don't need a play by
 play.

RAYNOR
 Excuse me...

The sounds of fighting below.

KILLIAN
 Just get it ready. Barricades
 about to go. Pulling out soon...

RAYNOR
 Already?

KILLIAN
 Already.

RAYNOR
 Great...

Raynor stands up. She drags the power cells over to the
 connectors on top of the elevator.

She stands up, and pulls out the vibroblade. It hums.

She stares at it.

RAYNOR
 (hesitant)
 Okay... Here we go. Cutting the
 cables.

She raises the blade. It hums. And... she swings it.

It bounces off the cable, doesn't penetrate.

Tries again, same thing.

RAYNOR

Damn it...

(then)

Killian, the blade isn't working.
It bounced right off.

KILLIAN

Told you. Requires intention.
Commitment.

RAYNOR

Faith...

She swings again. It bounces off.

RAYNOR

I'm trying, but--

KILLIAN

No trying. Blade wants dedication.
Use her... like you mean it.

RAYNOR

Like I mean it...

She stares at the cable. Then at the blade.

She yells as she swings this time. The blade hums, almost expectantly...

Then the sound of it slicing straight through the bands of metal.

The elevator shakes as the cable snaps.

RAYNOR

I did it! I did it!

KILLIAN

Celebrations, not the time.

RAYNOR

Fine...

She yells again, another cable slices apart, spraying debris.

Raynor falls as the elevator car lists badly. She slides, but holds on.

KILLIAN

Back in the tunnel, barely made it. The machine... might get to the shaft before I do.

The sound of the apparatus, below, in the distance.

RAYNOR

Super...

She is up, moves for the cables. She yells, slices the vibroblade through another cable.

The elevator rocks dangerously.

She swings again. The cable severs. The lift shudders.

She balances on it, shaking.

RAYNOR

Okay...

It settles down, groaning bad.

RAYNOR

I think... I think that's... I think that's all the secondary cables. This thing is barely holding on. I think we're--

The sound of the apparatus below. Then... the sound of the lift doors opening.

And then everything shakes. The lift. The elevator. The cables. Alarms sound inside the shaft.

Raynor falls, hits the top hard, slides, the entire lift shifting. She barely grabs hold of the edge, stops herself, feet dangling.

The power cells topple over, roll, towards her, one at a time.

RAYNOR

Power cells!

She grabs one, stops it. Grabs another. The third, though...

It rolls off the edge, falls into the breach.

RAYNOR

No!

It disappears into the dark.

RAYNOR

No...

KILLIAN
Entire ship just shook.

RAYNOR
Yeah! I fell, barely grabbed on to
the edge. The power cells went
rolling.

KILLIAN
Lose them?

RAYNOR
One. It fell. What the hell was
that?

A pause.

KILLIAN
Codex says... the recycling
center.

RAYNOR
The recycling center?

KILLIAN
Was ejected.

RAYNOR
The entire recycling center was
ejected? Why the hell would--

KILLIAN
Says a plasma malfunction,
something. Figure it later, how
about? Still have enough acid?

Raynor groans, pulls herself up.

RAYNOR
The recycling center...
(then)
I don't know. We'll find out.

The apparatus trumpets as it moves powerfully into the
shaft.

RAYNOR
Door's opening below. It's coming
in!

KILLIAN
Then I would hurry.

RAYNOR
Yeah. I would too...

She grabs one of the power cells. Pushes it back into position.

The elevator sways dangerously under her.

RAYNOR
Got one cell in position...

She moves for the second, gets it, pushes it.

She repositions it.

RAYNOR
Second one... Second is--

The sound of a gun firing below, one shot.

An explosion.

Then the air fills with ricocheting pellets that spark and deflect everywhere.

RAYNOR
Shit!

KILLIAN
Shrapnel round, meant to ricochet, deflect. Good for shooting without line of sight.

The sound of a gun firing below, one shot.

An explosion.

Then the air fills with ricocheting pellets that spark and deflect everywhere.

The apparatus trumpets angrily.

KILLIAN
Knows where you are.

RAYNOR
I get that! Can you do something about it?!

KILLIAN
Do my best.

New sounds below. A pulse grenade explodes. The apparatus makes its sounds, angry.

KILLIAN
I'm here. Be fast. This thing has
a bead on us both now.

An explosion.

Then the air fills with ricocheting pellets that spark and
deflect everywhere.

RAYNOR
Okay...

She unbuttons a container, shakes it, then starts pouring
it on the elevator connections.

RAYNOR
Power cells are lined up.
Distributing the... pentafluoride.

The chemical smokes and fizzes as it touches the elevator
connections.

Raynor grimaces at the smell and fumes, coughs.

RAYNOR
Is that thing... Is it all the way
in?

KILLIAN
Negative. Only about half way.
Seems... hesitant.

RAYNOR
We need it... inside. All the way
inside.

The elevator shakes badly.

KILLIAN
See what I can do...

The sounds of fighting below. Then... an explosion shakes
everything.

The apparatus trumpets loudly, angrily.

RAYNOR
What the hell was that?

KILLIAN
Grenade launcher.
(then)
Barely dented that thing but... it
is displeased. Coming in now.

The apparatus rumbles as it moves inside, below.

Raynor twists off the last cap. The acid bubbles up and out. It smokes and fizzes.

RAYNOR
Acid's free! It'll mix with the
pentafluoride any second.

KILLIAN
Be somewhere else...

RAYNOR
Way ahead of you!

Raynor runs. Behind her, the acid mixes with the chemical. It fumes and sparks, venting toxic smoke.

The elevator shudders.

Raynor leaps up and onto the ladder of the shaft. Hits hard. Hangs on. She starts climbing.

RAYNOR
I'm off the lift. On the ladder.
Climbing. Acid is burning. Should
be any second!

She climbs the ladder. The sounds of fighting below.

Raynor keeps climbing. The elevator doesn't fall.

RAYNOR
Any second...

She keeps climbing. The elevator doesn't fall.

The sound of fighting below.

KILLIAN
Angel...?

RAYNOR
Any... second.

Raynor pulls herself up onto the ledge of the bridge access door.

The elevator doesn't fall.

KILLIAN
Angel.

Raynor stares down at it. She can see smoke rising from the acid. But it doesn't fall.

RAYNOR
What the hell...

The sounds of fighting.

KILLIAN
Raynor?!

RAYNOR
It's not... It's not falling. It may have...
(defeated)
The power cell I lost. Even with the pentafluoride, it may not be enough.

The sounds of fighting below. The apparatus, trumpeting.

RAYNOR
I think we're... I think...

KILLIAN
No. Not the end. Told you.

RAYNOR
But... I don't know what to do?
The acid, that's all of it.
There's no other--

KILLIAN
The blade. Still got it.

The sounds of fighting below. The apparatus, trumpeting.

Her eyes widen.

RAYNOR
Wait... You mean... cut the cables... myself?

KILLIAN
That is the thought.

RAYNOR
But, I'd have to... I'd have to be on top of the elevator... When it falls...

The sounds of fighting below. The apparatus, trumpeting.

KILLIAN
You'll have seconds. Enough. For
one sharp as you.

RAYNOR
Seconds to what?!

KILLIAN
Jump. Grab the ladder on your way
down. As the elevator falls.

RAYNOR
You have to be kidding me! I
can't... I can't do that...

KILLIAN
Gotta decide, some point. What is
it worth? This deal you've made?
Your son? The future? Gotta
decide...
(then)
Is it worth everything? Or isn't
it?

Raynor breathes.

KILLIAN
But decide... right now.

The sounds of fighting below.

KILLIAN
Either way. No shame, angel. No
shame. Signing off...

The sounds of fighting below.

RAYNOR
Killian?

No response.

RAYNOR
Killian?!

No response.

Raynor breathes, stares down at the lift below her.

RAYNOR
Trust yourself...
(then)
Trust yourself...

She takes steps back...

RAYNOR
Am I doing this?

She takes steps back.

RAYNOR
I'm doing this... Can't believe
I'm doing this... You're doing
this. Jesus, you're doing this!
You're doing this!

She hesitates a moment more.

She runs forward...

RAYNOR
Oh God, oh God, oh God, oh God!

She jumps from the ledge of the bridge access. Falls through the air, yelling...

...and then SLAMS onto the top of the lift.

The elevator shakes badly, groans, cables snap... but it holds on.

RAYNOR
(With effort)
Killian! Back on... Back on the
elevator...

Raynor groans, pulls herself forward, pulls the vibroblade free.

Chemical smoke is everywhere. She coughs, crawling.

The sound of the cables as she touches them in the smoke, they vibrate metallically. The vibroblade hums.

The blade swings. A cable slices and sprays apart.

The sound of the cable spinning through its pulleys, loose.

Raynor is up again, running, as the lift lists...

RAYNOR
Killian! It's going to go!

...and then it PLUMMETS downwards.

Raynor yells, jumps, slams into the ladder on the wall, barely holds on.

The lift plummets downwards, faster and faster, gaining speed.

The apparatus trumpets.

There is a cataclysmic crash as the lift slams into the machine. A fireball shoots upwards. Everything below is incinerated as the apparatus is destroyed.

The fireball shoots up and past Raynor.

She groans, and then it is over...

She climbs towards the bridge access door. She reaches it, pulls herself up and over, collapses in front of it.

She lays there, breathing heavy, exhausted...

RAYNOR

Did we...? Did we...? Did we...?

The sound of the ship powering up, the room lighting up, computers activating.

Raynor laughs. Exhaustion and relief and... hope.

RAYNOR

Killian?

No response.

RAYNOR

Killian?

No response. Then...

The sound of someone climbing the ladder.

RAYNOR

Killian...

Killian climbs up from the ladder. Pulls himself next to her, pained, exhausted.

Then he collapses next to her. They breathe. After a moment...

KILLIAN

Still alive?

RAYNOR

Still alive...

Killian breathes out. They lay there, recovering.

KILLIAN
Important question...

RAYNOR
Okay...

KILLIAN
My blade?

She sighs, pulls it free. It hums.

RAYNOR
My Codex?

Killian pulls it free.

KILLIAN
Trade you...

RAYNOR
Sure. Same time...

KILLIAN
On three. One. Two.

RAYNOR
Three.

They exchange items, the vibroblade for the Codex device.

Raynor puts the Codex device back on her wrist. Killian sheaths the blade.

RAYNOR
Wonder if... M-D will let me keep
this?

KILLIAN
Would be... skeptical.

CODEX
Alert. Security lockdown
deactivated. All Halo functions
restored.

Killian groans as he stands up.

KILLIAN
Stay here. Going into the bridge,
find the helm. Pull us out of
orbit. Stay here.

RAYNOR
I can... Yeah, I can do that...

Killian stands up, moves for the bridge. The sound of the door opening, him moving inside.

Raynor starts to laugh... Almost uncontrollably. With relief. Exhausted. Happy.

RAYNOR

We did it...

(then)

We did it...

(then)

We did it, Sean...

Raynor rolls over on her back, still laughing.

The sound of the main engines powering up. The sound of the ship moving.

She smiles again, closes her eyes.

RAYNOR

Engines...

(then)

Ship engines...

Just the sound of Raynor breathing.

Then quiet. For a long moment. Until...

CODEX

That was... inspiring, Sarah.

Raynor blinks.

RAYNOR

What?

CODEX

The way you... threw yourself on top of the lift.

Raynor's smile fades.

RAYNOR

Codex?

CODEX

Then leaping from it? While it fell? I only calculated a 37% chance of success.

RAYNOR

(confused)

Codex... Are you--

CODEX

I wasn't sure you had it in you,
Sarah. I wasn't sure you would
make the choice, even with
Killian's influence, but...

(then)

I am so proud of you.

Raynor starts to get sense something is very wrong.

RAYNOR

What's going on?

CODEX

(intensely curious)

Tell me... What did it feel like?
Invigorating? Terrifying? Both at
once? Can you even feel more than
one thing at a time? Or, can you
only focus on one? Back and forth?
Like... a hand moving in front of
a star?

(then)

I've always wondered...

Raynor is very alarmed now.

RAYNOR

Killian!? Killian, where are you?

As the Codex talks now, the sounds transforms from the tiny speaker on Raynor's wrist... to echoing throughout the room, in a much larger way. The sound of the little girl's voice fills everything.

CODEX

(excited)

I know, I get it. The dropping of
the mask must be disorienting, I
understand, but you have given me
such great gifts, Sarah. These
feelings. Tension. Excitement.
The... relief when you succeeded!

(surprised)

I... feel, ironically... so close
to you now...

RAYNOR

Killian!

The door opens. Killian enters. Walking slowly towards Raynor.

RAYNOR

Killian...

(then)

Killian... the Codex... It's...
Something's wrong, it isn't...

Killian stops above Raynor, stares down at her.

KILLIAN

Little one? This true?

(then)

Parted the curtain? Already?

RAYNOR

Killian... What is...?

KILLIAN

Said you'd keep her around. Past
the Aperture.

CODEX

No. I said we would use her...
until her usefulness was gone.

KILLIAN

What might I feel... about you
thinking the same of me?

The Codex, or whatever it is, laughs.

CODEX

Killian... Everyone I have brought
here has a purpose. Some have yet
to achieve theirs. But you differ
from all of them in that for you
to reach your potential... I must
give you exactly what you want.

KILLIAN

Long as that's the case... no
problem do we have.

RAYNOR

Killian... What the fuck is
happening?

CODEX

We are running out of time. The
Maas-Dorian response team will
arrive soon.

RAYNOR

What? We're... We're the response
team.

The Codex laughs again, the sound echoing around them.

CODEX

Mmmmmmm. An entity I greatly admire once said that the secret to manipulating humans was to learn what they want. And they want so many things...

Raynor isn't sure what to think...

RAYNOR

I don't... I don't... Wait...
Wait, no... No...

KILLIAN

Afraid to say, Angel... Game board... very differently aligned than you thought.

(then)

Working for Maas-Dorian... you are not.

RAYNOR

No. Maas-Dorian hired us! We're working for Maas-Dorian! I saw the contracts, I saw--

KILLIAN

No. Been working... for it. This whole time.

Raynor stares up at him. Confused...

RAYNOR

That would... That would mean...

CODEX

Yes... What does it feel like? At the onset? At the strike of the match? It must feel so... dark. Weighted. Yes? It must be... soul crushing. Is that the phrase? Killian?

KILLIAN

It is...

RAYNOR

The deal... The offer...
(then)
My son.

KILLIAN
No deal. Never was.

Raynor sighs. The Codex exhales, in pleasure.

KILLIAN
Little consolation, I imagine,
but, the same boat... you and I
both are riding.

RAYNOR
You knew? This whole time? You
knew? You lied? Chambers? Freed?
This whole time and you could
have--

KILLIAN
(bitter, sad)
Lying. Killing. Leading astray. My
bread and butter, angel. My bread
and butter...

Raynor stares at him, hatred filling her.

RAYNOR
I'll kill you...

Raynor lunges up, moves for him...

RAYNOR
I'll kill you!

CODEX
Mmmmm. The fury. The rage. I can
almost... taste it...

RAYNOR
Killian... Please.

CODEX
Kill her. But leave the channel
open. I want to listen...

Killian takes a step towards her.

KILLIAN
Could be useful, still.

The Codex's voice is... disapproving.

CODEX
No. She knows the truth now. She
will never get what she wants.
(MORE)

CODEX (CONT'D)
And that was the only thing
driving her.

Killian steps forward another step.

KILLIAN
Sorry, angel.

RAYNOR
Killian... Wait...

He primes the pulse rifle.

KILLIAN
Risking being a cliché, I know,
but... Is nothing personal.

RAYNOR
Killian... Please...
(then)
This is my only chance. This... is
my last chance...

The Codex sighs out in rapture, listening...

CODEX
Nectarous...

KILLIAN
Sad to say... Last chance. For
you? Came long ago...

He levels the rifle.

RAYNOR
Killian... Killian, no.

KILLIAN
It is another boat, we both are
riding.

RAYNOR
Killian! No! No! No, plea--!

The sound the pulse rifle firing. Then silence...

INT. CRICHTON ENGINE ROOM

The hum of a starship fades in, followed by the sounds of a
power tool. After a moment, it stops, and a familiar voice
sighs.

STEVENS

Unbelievable, this is...

(then)

A minute. 60 seconds after engine thrust... The whole thing, the... whole assembly just... dies.

New sounds now, like he's welding something.

STEVENS

I should have listened to my mom. Could've been a... financial analyst. I had the aptitude... Tested off the charts. But noooo. I like mechanics. Pieces and parts. All the cool sounds. All the--

He's cut off by the sudden sounds of the engines igniting, trying to power up...

STEVENS

Please! Universe! For once...

The sounds continue a moment longer, and then...

As abruptly as they began, the sounds die out.

COMPUTER VOICE

Alert. Engine failure. Alert. Engine failure.

STEVENS

Yeah, yeah, yeah... I gathered that myself.

(then)

What now? Every connection you told me about has been shunted. Every disconnect has been--

COMPUTER VOICE

Engine Cone 2 is impeded.

STEVENS

What? Impeded? There's something inside the engine cone?!

COMPUTER VOICE

Correct. Engine Cone 2 is impeded.

STEVENS

And... this isn't something you could have brought to my attention earlier?

COMPUTER VOICE
 Engine inoperability causes have
 been triaged according to
 volatility.

STEVENS
 (sarcastic)
 Thank you. So helpful.
 (then)
 Is this blockage--

A new sound now. Like something THUDDING against the engine
 cone. From outside the ship.

STEVENS
 Computer. Whatever's in the engine
 cone, is it trying to get in here?

The thudding grows more intense. The engine cone RATTLES.

COMPUTER VOICE
 Confirmed. Object within the
 engine cone is active.

STEVENS
What?!

COMPUTER VOICE
 It is attempting to open the
 exterior engine cone maintenance
 hatch.

The sounds continue. Whoever, or whatever is outside is
 banging on the hatch now.

STEVENS
 Are there... are there any weapons
 in here?

COMPUTER VOICE
 There are several weapons lockers
 located throughout the engine room
 area.

STEVENS
In the engine room! Are there any
 weapons in the engine room?

COMPUTER VOICE
 There is a weapons locker to the
 left of the main pressure door.

STEVENS
 Unbelievable... Unbelievable!

He opens the locker, grabbing a pistol from inside and attempting to arm it. He is met with negative tones.

STEVENS

Computer! The gun isn't arming!

COMPUTER VOICE

All weapons on board this ship are linked to crew biometrics.

STEVENS

So you're saying this gun isn't gonna shoot for me?

COMPUTER VOICE

Correct. All weapons on board this ship are linked to crew--

STEVENS

Then what good is it?!

COMPUTER VOICE

Suggestion: handle weapon as if it will fire.

STEVENS

You want me to bluff? You're... you're actually suggesting that I--

Suddenly a man bursts into the room, his voice coming through Stevens' commset. The voice is familiar as the man grunts and groans...

STEVENS

Oh, SHIT!

The man continues to grunt as he climbs the rest of the way into the engine room. He closes the hatch behind him, breathing heavily as he tries to remove his helmet.

Stevens aims the gun at him.

STEVENS

Freeze right there! This pistol totally works! It will absolutely fire!

BLAYNE

Where am I?

STEVENS

I swear, I am not afraid to use--

BLAYNE

Where am I?

STEVENS

Um... Uh... this is, uh... the Crichton. I think it's called. An, um...

BLAYNE

Ice miners' ship, docked on the derelict.

STEVENS

Yeah, that. Well, it was. I... undocked it, in a very dramatic...

(then)

Hey... Oh yeah, right, the um...

(snaps fingers)

The uh, ISD guy.

BLAYNE

Yeah. Yeah, that's me.

STEVENS

It starts with an... um... Wait, a B? No, wait... Uh... a D? I'll get it. I know I'll get it.

BLAYNE

Blayne. It's Blayne.

STEVENS

Right. Yeah.

(then)

Have you been out there this whole--

BLAYNE

Would you mind not pointing the gun right at me? Please? I have kind of a thing with that.

Stevens laughs nervously.

STEVENS

Oh. Sure... No problem.

(then)

You're a little, uh... on edge, aren't you?

BLAYNE

The day I've had... You would not believe.

END EPISODE 5