

KEPLER-442B

Written by

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TITLE OVER:

Earth, 2096, Climate Disaster.

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

The beautiful blue and white marble that is planet Earth stands in stark contrast against a black backdrop of stars.

In the foreground, Mobius I, a spinning ring-ship of tremendous size, appears to be just finishing completion in low earth orbit.

The ship -- a rotating ring of sixteen cylindrical, pressurized compartments joined together with connecting flanges -- allows each compartment to spin within its housing.

The ring's shape, combined with its rotational rate, provides 1G of artificial gravity to all within.

The central ring of the station, devoid of any obstacles or supports, runs a hundred meters in diameter -- large enough to fly the international space station through it.

A series of gimbed, next-gen-tech ion engines run along the outer perimeter of the ring's shank.

Firing sporadically with brilliant blue jets, the ion engines act as thrusters that make small, real-time orbital corrections to the ring.

Along the inner shank of the ship's ring, a luminous red halo, like a fluorescent tube, is anchored in place to each compartment's connecting flanges, creating a glowing red ring within a ring.

The luminous inner ring and the sixteen connecting flanges attached to it, remain static, independent from the orientation of the compartments and their corresponding ion engines.

Opposite the luminous red inner ring, a series of laser turrets, all aimed at a common focal point a few hundred meters behind the ship, stand idle on the outer ring, also anchored to the ship's connecting flanges.

A crane-like apparatus secured to one compartment -- the ship's communications boom -- is designed to be lowered and retracted through the ships luminous inner ring.

Each of the pressurized compartments of the ship can change orientation within the ring by rotating ninety degrees on its flanges, converting from an orbital, rotating mode with ion engines along the outer perimeter of the ring's shank, to a travelling mode, with ion engines turned to one side of the ring's shank.

ZOOM IN right up to the hull of the rotating ship until we pass through it.

INT. MOBIUS I - ACCESS CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Commander VINCENT IVES (44), Pilot MIKE DOERSY (48) and Mission Specialist MIRIAM SHAR (52) walk a narrow corridor along the perimeter of the ship, just above where the ion engines flashed a moment ago.

Ives, with close cropped, prematurely graying hair, is an athletic man who exudes a quiet confidence.

Dorsey, brown haired and blue eyed, carries himself with a military composure and a seemingly omnipresent alertness.

Shar, a brunette with hair pulled back in a pony tail, wears plain practical clothes and has a bookish air of intelligence about her.

As they walk from compartment, to connecting flange, to compartment, the corridor follows along the contour of the ring-ship.

Access hatches appear along the roof to the various decks and thin light strips run along the sides of the corridor, providing illumination along the entire circumference of the ring.

Arriving at the flight deck, Ives pushes a large orange button near the hatch by his head. A loud but momentary buzz sounds, heralding the opening of the hatch.

Ives pulls down a telescoping yellow ladder and climbs up through the portal.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK - CONTINUOUS

Rising up through the hatch in the floor at the rear of the flight deck, Ives joins Engineer, JANE CLARK (45), Science & Communication Specialist MATT MILLER (36) and Payload Commander KENJI TANAKA (56).

Clark, attractive, with short cropped red hair, looks the part of someone who works with her hands and has the callouses to prove it.

Miller, thin, with a nerdy streak has sandy blonde hair and is the youngest of the crew. He has a soft, fresh-out-of-school look about him despite his 36 years.

Tanaka, the oldest of the crew, is a well composed man with a scholarly and enlightened air about him.

Ives takes a seat in the central commander's chair located in front of the main viewscreen where a wireframe animated schematic of the rotating Mobius I plays like a screensaver.

IVES
(taking it all in)
It's good to be back.

The commander's seat stands in the center rear of the flight deck while arcing in front it, left to right, are marked stations:

- Payload Specialist, Miriam Shar
Red QUEEN (Quantum Entanglement
Einstein Nacelle)
- Flight Engineer, Jane Clark
Ion Engines, Fusion Reactor,
Magnetic Coil Generator, Life
Support
- Flight Control & Flight Surgeon, Mike Dorsey
Pilot & Physician
- Mission Specialist, Kenji Tanaka
Schwarzschild Kugelblitz Drive
- Science & Communication Specialist, Matt Miller
Flight Communications & Science
Officer

Dorsey, next through the hatch, takes a seat in front of Ives at Flight Control, directly in front of the commanding officer's station.

DORSEY
Yeah... not long now. Going to be
hard to say goodbye.

Shar, next rising through the hatch, takes a seat at the Mission Specialist's station to the left side of the bridge and main viewscreen.

SHAR

Going to be a long year before
Mobius II is operational but at
least then we can portal back to
low earth orbit.

DORSEY

Of course our families will have
aged over 7 years by then thanks to
time dilation, but --

TANAKA

-- You are assuming, Shar, that the
Red QUEEN is actually going to work
in conjunction with Mobius II. And
hey, I'm cautiously optimistic that
it will but a few bleeding-edge,
experimental technologies need to
all come together in tandem and
work perfectly. Any error at all
in any one of them and the show's
over.

SHAR

It'll work just fine... I'd be more
concerned about your experimental --
or should I say hypothetical --
Black Hole Drive. Mobius I's
portal capabilities have at least
been tested. That Schwarzschild
Kugelblitz drive... not so much.

TANAKA

Hypothetical? We've run it
successfully in the lab on Artemis
IV... at L2 Lagrange.

MILLER

In training they taught us how it
uses a series of high-energy gamma
ray lasers to create and contain a
micro black hole... I guess we'll
be seeing that up close real soon
now.

SHAR

They glossed over the part about
what happens if containment were
breached on that black hole...

CLARK

Abrupt spaghettification people...
you can handle it.

DORSEY

That's right. Suck it up Shar.

TANAKA

Keep in mind... with the black hole drive, we're talking about the mass of what? Two empire state buildings condensed to about the size of a proton? If we were to lose containment on that while engine braking or accelerating at interstellar speeds, the black hole's event horizon wouldn't be close enough to suck the Mobius I into it... it'd either pass right through the center of Red QUEEN and be lost to interstellar space or rocket safely away behind us, powered by its own Hawking radiation.

CLARK

And if that scenario happens while say at planetary orbital speeds?

TANAKA

There's a reason those early tests were done on Artemis IV at Lagrange 2... that abrupt spaghettification thing you were talking about --

SHAR

Right? Losing containment of a black hole in an earth based lab could prove problematic for humanity.

IVES

Not to put too fine a point on it, but the continuation of the species hangs in the balance on this mission... so taking chances with some bleeding edge technology... if it's the only way we have a shot at getting this done... we have to do it. We'll just have to make damn good and sure we don't lose containment.

TANAKA

Fortunately for us, a vast majority of the mission duration will be spent traveling at high enough speeds that a containment breach would not be catastrophic.

MILLER

Yeah, it's when we're in orbit around Earth or Kepler-442b, at well below those speeds, that a containment breach would end poorly for us.

CLARK

We'd have to lose both primary and secondary power while the drive were active... if something were catastrophic enough to make that happen, we'd have a whole bunch of other problems just as pressing to deal with.

MILLER

Mission control is on the com.

IVES

On the screen.

The main screen lights up with the International Space Administration (ISA) Flight Control Center as the back drop where engineers and scientists bustle about.

A round logo for the Mobius Project -- an image of the Mobius I and II spacecraft looped together, surrounded by the flags of 15 partnering nations -- is visible embedded on the left side of the screen, immediately below an ISA logo, loosely based on the NASA logo of the twentieth century.

Mission Control Flight Director MEESHA DHILLON (55), Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM) BEN BLACK (50) and Flight Dynamics Officer RICHARD DONNELLY (45) greet the Mobius I crew.

INTERCUT -- VIDEO CALL

DHILLON

Greetings Mobius I crew from all of us here at ISA mission control.

(MORE)

DHILLON (CONT'D)

You should have all just finished your L-10 physical exams and just have to wait out the last 9 days of aboard-vessel quarantine before launch... all systems are go on our end.

IVES

Mobius I is all systems go on our pre-flight as well... quick roundtable for Flight Control? Tanaka?

TANAKA

I've finished the modifications to the Kugelblitz Drive. Riding a 160 Petawatt Black Hole is now going to break us the world record for the fastest sub-luminal travel in history. Mods completed a week ahead of schedule so we're using the extra time to test and re-test our configurations.

DHILLON

Well done Tanaka.

SHAR

All systems nominal with the Red QUEEN. I just need Mobius II completed so I can test out the portal capabilities with her twin.

BLACK

We'll talk in a year Shar... or... seven... depending on your perspective.

CLARK

Ion engines, fusion reactor and magnetic field coil systems all nominal.

MILLER

Communications boom is operating nominally. Once the Red QUEEN -- the Quantum Entanglement Einstein Nacelle is on line we'll really be able to test out its capabilities through portal drops. As for our more conventional high gain antenna... also nominal.

DHILLON

On the astrobiology front Miller,
we just received the latest transit
photometry results from the Vera
Rubin Space Telescope.

MILLER

And did they confirm those elevated
methane and CO2 levels the JPL team
was seeing?

DHILLON

No, the data confirm our original
observations that Kepler-442b has
an atmosphere more comparable to
that of a pre-industrial Earth.

MILLER

So, maybe we'll only encounter that
plant life we assume to be there
after all?

CLARK

That works just fine for me Miller.
The less complicated this mission
is the better... wouldn't want to
have to hand out any eviction
notices prior to our species taking
up residency in our new home.

IVES

(to Dhillon)

About those Sky Runners... we're
still on track to have them at
least a day prior to launch?

DHILLON

That's right... they're in good
health and as of last week are now
certified for both piloted and
unpiloted flight.

DORSEY

I can't wait to play with 'em.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

Kepler-442b, a cloud speckled, earth-like planet of green and
blue, dominates the frame as a lonely reddish-white, cryo-
volcanic moon orbits in the distance.

Angry blue lightning flashes sporadically in the clouds.

INTO FRAME a Kaldorian Adjudicator, a long, metallic, carbon-gray spacecraft of enormous size eclipses the planet.

Several smaller transport ships come and go from the behemoth.

INT. KALDORIAN ADJUDICATOR - COMMAND DECK

Several red-skinned, tall and hideous military personnel move about busily on the command deck of the huge ship.

The bi-pedal Kaldorians are humanoid in nature but the similarity to humans ends there.

A taller, better dressed and more heavily decorated Kaldorian Lord, MALEK, stands with hands clasped behind his back, staring through enormous windows towards the planet below.

REVERSE ANGLE as doors to the command deck slide open and four heavily armored Kaldorian troopers enter, dragging two battle fatigued OENARI with them which they drop at Malek's feet.

The Oenari, a pale skinned, elfish and human-like race wear filthy garb and appear emaciated. They have clearly come from a place of hardship and suffering.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

So, what have we here?

TROOPER #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Sir, we found and burned the rebel village. These two Oenari are the last survivors.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Did you find the location of the remaining Aenami? Where are they?

TROOPER #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

No sir... we interrogated the villagers and scouted the surroundings but nothing. No location, no tracks.

Malek takes a step closer to the trooper.

MALEK
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 Do you know how to interrogate a
 prisoner trooper?

Malek holds out his hand.

MALEK (CONT'D)
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 Your sidearm.

One of the helpless Oenari begins to cower.

TROOPER #1
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 Sir?

OENARI #1
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 Please my Lord, I beg of you.

MALEK
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 Your sidearm... give it to me now.

TROOPER #2
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 But sir --

MALEK
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 Question me again and it will be
 your last... Give me your sidearm
 now!

TROOPER #1
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 Yes sir!

The trooper hands over his sidearm to Malek who immediately
 draws a bead -- point blank -- on the head of the silent
 Oenari.

OENARI #1
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 Please...

MALEK
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 Tell me the whereabouts of your
 winged Aenami friends and I'll
 allow this wretched piece of filth
 to continue to breathe.

OENARI #1
(Oenari; subtitled)
We don't know anything...

A beat before BLAM! Malek pulls the trigger and a dead Oenari falls to the floor.

Malek repositions the firearm against the head of the remaining Oenari.

MALEK
(Oenari; subtitled)
Last chance... where are the
Aenami?

The Oenari lowers its head, accepting its fate.

Malek glares back to the troopers.

MALEK (CONT'D)
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Take this piece of garbage away,
and for the last time -- find where
those wretched Aenami are hiding.

TROOPER #1
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Yes sir.

The troopers begin dragging away the Oenari.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - FOREST - DAY

AERIAL SHOT flying on the wings of an Aenami along a partially fog shrouded, forest canopy.

A beat.

The smoldering remains of a recently raided Oenari village come into view where a few Kaldorians pack a transport aircraft with supplies taken from the ruins.

Lightning flashes in the clouds nearby.

WIDE ON the Aenami, SILVER, a magnificent gray-white creature with an enormous eighteen foot wingspan, powerful legs and eyes like lightning.

On his ancient and ornate saddle, MARGUL, a goggled Oenari warrior gestures ahead with a Kaldorian blaster.

The pair fly up over a forested rise before the canopy of trees abruptly gives way to a vast swath of planetary scale, clear-cut deforestation.

As far as the eye can see is an ocean of gigantic stumps where roughshod roads and empty stream beds wind through the scene like blood starved arteries.

MARGUL

(Oenari; subtitled)

The scale of the destruction...
it's almost unbelievable...

SILVER

(telepathically;
subtitled)

The Kaldorians will pay for what
they have done. The season of
storms is at hand.

Continuing along, the pair fly above an Oenari concentration camp where Kaldorians busy themselves making life miserable for the subjugated native population of Oenari.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - FOREST CLEARING - DUSK

Under the cover of fog, Margul and Silver land in a clearing where two other Aenami, BARDUK and SHARD wait quietly with their saddled Oenari riders ADU and BENNA respectively.

Shard, a slightly smaller but more colorful Aenami, shows the blue-white coloring of a female of the species.

Barduk, the largest and most imposing of the three, sports blaster scars and facial markings that speak to a life of hardship and combat.

A group of about fifty armed and militarized rag-tag Oenari forces emerge from the surrounding forest to congregate with the seasoned Aenami and their veteran riders.

MARGUL

(Oenari; subtitled)

My brethren... I know our numbers
shrink ever smaller at the hands of
the Kaldorians. Another village...
my village... my family... wiped
out just last night.

ADU

(Oenari; subtitled)

That pain of loss, I know so many
of you feel...

(MORE)

ADU (CONT'D)

the deaths of your loved ones...
the losses of our forests to the
growing number of logging camps.

BARDUK

(telepathically;
subtitled)

Tonight the weather is with us.
The fates again at last, begin to
play to our favor as the season of
storms returns once again.

MARGUL

(Oenari; subtitled)

Once the camp is alerted to our
presence we have a very brief
window to get everyone to safety
before reinforcements arrive.

BENNA

(Oenari; subtitled)

That's right... time will be of the
essence so we've got to move
swiftly! Tonight we strike a blow
back at the Kaldorians and free
many of our brethren from slavery.
You know your roles my fellow
Oenari!

Hoisting his Kaldorian blaster from Silver's saddle, Margul
shouts to the congregation.

MARGUL

(Oenari; subtitled)

Ride the thunder my brothers and
sisters!

OENARI FORCES

(Oenari; subtitled)

Ride the thunder!

Silver, Barduk and Shard launch straight up with their riders
from the clearing into the fog above.

Lightning flashes between clouds and thunder booms in their
wake.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CONCENTRATION CAMP - NIGHT

Surrounded by fencing, the quiet Oenari concentration camp
rises up the bank from the path into a clearing in the
forest.

To the far south end of the camp a Kaldorian ship rises formidably above the trees, serving as a command center for the compound.

A pair of armed transports sit on a landing field to the east side of the camp. Their long hulls indicate a capacity to carry a large load of cargo or hundreds of individuals. A two person cockpit with a top-to-bottom canopy protrudes from the front of the ships.

To the west a vast swath of clear-cut deforestation, snaked with primitive dirt roads, stretches over fields and hills as far as the eye can see.

Technologically advanced logging vehicles, haul trucks with building-sized wheels and other related equipment fill a parking field on the camp's western perimeter.

Lightning flashes ominously between the clouds far above and thunder booms in the distance.

INT. CONCENTRATION CAMP - KALDORIAN SHIP - NIGHT

Doors to the command deck slide open and the dark robed Kaldorian ship Commander TAKUS, enters hurriedly.

Approaching a broad window that overlooks the camp, Takus walks past a dozen KALDORIAN SUBORDINATES without acknowledging anyone.

TAKUS

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
(to no one in particular)

This weather concerns me. This is what the Aenami and Oenari would consider a perfect opportunity -- perfect conditions to strike.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Having just attacked the village in sector 7 last night sir, I feel like we would be wise to stay on alert tonight. They grow desperate and will make the most they can of the storm season --

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

-- Sir, we've got a contact in grid two... about the same altitude as our surveyor drones.

TAKUS
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Red alert.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - LIGHTNING RAVAGED STORM CLOUDS - NIGHT

The three Aenami -- Silver, Barduk and Shard -- spiral upwards together through the stormy night sky in a triple helix as lightning flashes all around them. Margul, Adu and Benna hold firm to their saddles, no strangers to riding their Aenami mounts.

A blue-white electrical charge builds rapidly along the Aenami's hides and over their mighty wings as they ascend higher through the clouds.

Their eyes begin to flash with lightning as they channel the power of the building storm through their bodies.

A beat before their climbing triple helix suddenly sprouts open like a flower and the three sleek Aenami dive straight back down through the clouds.

An air raid alert begins blasting from the concentration camp far below.

Margul guides Silver through flashing clouds, her electrical charge continuously building in intensity.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CONCENTRATION CAMP - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

SILVER'S POV as the clouds part abruptly and the Kaldorian command ship from the concentration camp fills the view.

Silver goes critical mass with the electrical charge before BOOM! A lightning bolt blazes straight down from the sky, through Silver's body, and into the side of the Kaldorian command ship.

Totally unfazed by the channeled lightning bolt, Silver and Margul skillfully pull up at the last possible second as the blasted side of the command ship extricates itself onto a guard tower below, killing its Kaldorian inhabitants.

Flying out low over the main entrance to the concentration camp, Silver grasps the gate fencing with her rear legs, tearing a broad swath of it away in the flyby.

INTO FRAME the rag-tag Oenari from the clearing earlier, begin storming through the freshly torn opening from the forest, firing on unprepared Kaldorian guards with blasters.

Lights from the concentration camp vainly fail to pierce the low lying cloud cover as Barduk with Adu and Shard with Benna dive straight down out from it.

INT. CONCENTRATION CAMP - KALDORIAN SHIP - NIGHT

In a frenzied panic, Takus barks commands to his subordinates who quickly obey, providing updates from their stations.

TAKUS

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Advise the Adjudicator we're under attack and require immediate reinforcements.

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Yes sir!

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Sir, the ship has been breached on decks 3 through 7 -- crew quarters.

TAKUS

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Scramble the transports!

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CAMP PARKING FIELD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Diving out from the clouds above -- BOOM! Adu and Barduk unleash an electrical charge, sending a lightning bolt crashing explosively into the logging vehicles and equipment.

Shrapnel from the exploding vehicles flies everywhere in the blast, shredding several nearby Kaldorians while residual lightning electrocutes the rest.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CAMP LANDING FIELD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Diving out from the clouds above -- BOOM! Benna and Shard send a brilliant white bolt crackling into the transports at the landing field.

The transports explode in a huge pyrotechnic display as startled Kaldorians are either consumed entirely by the resulting blast or sent staggering and flaming away into the night.

INT. CONCENTRATION CAMP - KALDORIAN SHIP - NIGHT

Lightning flashes through the windows of the command ship as Takus continues barking commands to his subordinates.

TAKUS

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Seal the breached decks and prepare to launch!

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Sir, we have crew in the breached decks!

TAKUS

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Are you deaf!?! Launch now!

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Yes sir! Sealing the breached decks.

INT. KALDORIAN SHIP - BREACHED DECKS

Maimed and burned Kaldorian crew members struggle to escape their burning crew quarters as bulkhead doors begin slamming down, one after another, sealing their fate.

One of the crewman, partially through a doorway, sees the doors beside him slamming down in succession as he looks up just in time to greet his own door as it comes down to seal the bulkhead -- severing him in two.

INT. CONCENTRATION CAMP - KALDORIAN SHIP - NIGHT

A Kaldorian subordinate glances towards Takus.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Launching now sir!

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CONCENTRATION CAMP - NIGHT

The Oenari ground forces engage in a firefight with Kaldorian camp guards while Oenari prisoners take up arms or flee for cover in the surrounding forest.

Margul and Silver, about to make another pass, spot red launch lights firing on along the base of the command ship, signaling an imminent launch.

Bringing Silver down low over the concentration camp courtyard, Margul shouts to the battling Oenari below.

MARGUL

(Oenari; subtitled)
Everybody flee! They're about to launch! Get clear of that ship and run for the forest!

Two OENARI WARRIORS pinned down by a half dozen Kaldorians near the ship look frantically for a way out -- there's nothing.

The two exchange knowing glances before turning and charging, together, headlong into the fray with guns blazing.

OENARI WARRIOR #1

(Oenari; subtitled)
Ride the thunder!

OENARI WARRIOR #2

(Oenari; subtitled)
For the Storm Lord!

INTO FRAME, Shard, with Benna crouched on her back, blasts through the middle of the exchange, plucking the two warriors from certain death as the engines of the Kaldorian ship violently ignite.

The area where the two Oenari were pinned down a moment ago is completely engulfed by flames as the Kaldorian ship launches up into the night sky.

The half dozen Kaldorians pinning down the Oenari warriors ignite like tinder in the ensuing blast.

Flying out of the fray, Benna leans down and shouts to the two Oenari, one in each of Shard's powerful claws.

BENNA

(Oenari; subtitled)
You fight bravely comrades! The sky-fire burns strong within you!

OENARI #1

(Oenari; subtitled)
Your timing is impeccable!

OENARI #2

We thought we were dead for sure.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - LIGHTNING RAVAGED STORM CLOUDS - NIGHT

Flying out from the clouds, Margul and Silver come up alongside Benna and Shard.

MARGUL
(Oenari; subtitled)
Well done you two! Now get to safety!

BENNA
(Oenari; subtitled)
Where are you going?

MARGUL
(Oenari; subtitled)
After that ship!

Margul and Silver peel away from their companions and continue to power their way up through the clouds.

A beat before they intercept the damaged Kaldorian ship as it punches its way out of the clouds, heading towards orbit.

INT. KALDORIAN SHIP - COMMAND DECK - NIGHT

Takus and his subordinate crew are put back in their seats as they rocket upward.

Suddenly, through the same window that once overlooked the courtyard of the Oenari concentration camp, Margul and Silver emerge from the clouds and come up alongside the ship.

SUBORDINATE #1
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Sir! We have company.

With a look of incredulity, Takus stares out the window as electricity begins scintillating all over Silver.

For a brief moment Silver makes eye contact with Takus and gives him an angry scowl.

Takus returns the expression.

TAKUS
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
(shaking his fist)
You are a rabble! I will not tolerate --

-- A blinding flash fills the Command Deck.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - LIGHTNING RAVAGED STORM CLOUDS - NIGHT

Silver channels a brilliant blast of lightning straight through her body and up along the side of the escaping spacecraft, tearing it open with a zipper-like effect.

The flying duo peel away from the doomed ship with a barrel roll before it explodes in a massive fireball.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CONCENTRATION CAMP - NIGHT

Fires consume much of what remains of the camp as the victorious Oenari forces clean up the last of the local Kaldorian incursion.

The last three Aenami land -- one after the other -- on the remains of the camp's courtyard with their battle hardened Oenari riders.

Margul raises his blaster up over his head as the flaming remains of the destroyed Kaldorian ship rain down in the distance behind him.

The surrounding Oenari raise blasters and weapons in salute.

MARGUL
(Oenari; subtitled)
This night we have victory!

The crowd of elated Oenari erupt in cheers.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

Mobius I slowly spins against the backdrop of a blue-green Earth as small ships and astronauts finish the last of her construction.

EXT. EARTH ATMOSPHERE - DAY

WIDE ON a mountain range as:

INTO FRAME a Sky Runner drone appears at extreme range against an orange sky with a muted red sun.

Going like a bat out of hell it slowly crosses the screen before disappearing out the other side.

INT. SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

PILOT'S POV as the Sky Runner dips down along a valley surrounded by steep mountains.

The valley quickly gives way to a canyon which in turn gives way to a raging river before going skyward with tremendous G-force.

Going into the stratosphere the sky transforms from smoky, climate-disaster orange to night black.

A beat before stars fill the sky and Mobius I appears in the distance, rapidly growing in size as the Sky Runner approaches.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

The Mobius I ring-ship slowly spins in low earth orbit as the Sky Runner approaches and prepares to dock on one of the ship's connecting flanges.

Floating nearby, a second near-identical Sky Runner begins to dock simultaneously on the opposite connecting flange on the far side of the ship.

So long as the Mobius I spins, the two sky runners use the ships AI to dock and undock with perfect choreography so as to not destabilize its rotation.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Dorsey, seated at his station, watches a hologram-on-glass display in front him projecting the Sky Runner's POV.

Computers take over the final stage of docking as Dorsey drops his hands from the control interface.

Ives stands nearby, watching over Dorsey's shoulder with an amused look on his face.

DORSEY

Oh yeah! That was one wild ride.

Flipping a switch on his console, Dorsey kills the holographic display on the terminal which converts immediately to its default GUI.

IVES

The upgraded airframe on these Sky Runners is revolutionary.

DORSEY

Rigid as hell and can take a beating to boot.

IVES

In atmospheric flight tests they can simultaneously withstand the loss of either engine *and* up to two-thirds of either wing and still remain airborne.

DORSEY

Impressive. Twin Emmerson Thunderbolt Engines too... so damn fast.

SHAR (O.S.)

Alright... boys and their toys.

Ives and Dorsey look over as Shar climbs up through the hatch and joins them.

DORSEY

She's one hell of a ride Shar.

SHAR

She's the only kind of ride you're going to have for the next year Dorsey so you damn-well better like it.

The remainder of the crew rise single file through the hatch and everyone takes seats at their respective stations.

Hologram-on-glass interfaces begin flashing on at everyone's terminals as the ship's systems come fully on-line.

MILLER

(eyeing his display)

Tanaka, I've got all 16 gamma ray laser turrets on-line and fully operational.

TANAKA

(tapping at his interface)

Check. I'm reading the same. All systems nominal on the Kugelblitz drive.

IVES

Ok, go ahead and charge capacitors.

TANAKA

Charging capacitors.

Tanaka continues tapping away at his interface where 16 individual bars begin to fill -- red first, then yellow, and finally green.

TANAKA (CONT'D)
 Capacitors charged and 100 percent...
 (looks up at the commander)
 Ready to fire Sir.

IVES
 Fire on my mark. 3... 2... 1...
 Engage.

Tanaka taps a button.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

Sixteen gamma ray lasers simultaneously fire at a common focal point from the Mobius I creating a brilliant red cone that rotates with the ship.

At the point of convergence a black hole singularity tears into existence through the fabric of space and time, given mass from the lasers incredible energy.

A brilliant cyclone of ruby-red light begins swirling angrily, just above the hungry newborn's event horizon.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Tanaka excitedly taps away at his interface.

TANAKA
 This thing is tearing it up!

IVES
 Ok everyone, strap in. We're going to prepare for launch. Clark... cease Mobius's spin and reorient for g-force from the ion engines.

BLACK (V.O.)
 Mobius I you are clear to launch.

MILLER
 Roger that.

DHILLON (V.O.)
 Godspeed Mobius I.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

The blue ion engines fire sporadically around the perimeter of the Mobius I, gradually ceasing its spin.

All of Mobius I's compartments then smoothly rotate ninety degrees such that the ion engines point in the same direction as the lasers taming the black hole singularity.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Everyone is locked down tight in their chairs.

CLARK

Ion engines locked and ready to fire. Fusion generator nominal.

IVES

Full ahead, one G.

DORSEY

Full ahead sir.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

The ion engines on the spacecraft fire up in a solid blue luminescent ring but the ship itself moves only modestly forward.

IVES (V.O.)

Drop power to the lasers on the Kugelblitz drive by ten percent.

TANAKA (V.O.)

Ten percent sir.

The lasers feeding and taming the black hole singularity gradually dim by ten percent -- almost imperceptibly.

As the lasers dim, the black hole begins to exert its influence -- warping the light from the earth behind it through gravitational lensing and moving the ship away from the earth at a substantial rate, powered by the Hawking radiation now pouring invisibly off of the singularity.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

The crew remove their restraints now having returned to 1G.

IVES

We are now officially riding a black hole.

CLARK

Ion engines steady at 1G acceleration.

TANAKA

The Kugelblitz drive is looking beautiful sir... The Hawking radiation pouring off the black hole is increasing that 1G with pseudo-acceleration by a factor of... seventy eight point four.

DORSEY

So we're experiencing 1G from the ion engines but in reality are going about eighty times that thanks to a black hole... That'll never cease to blow my mind.

TANAKA

Well in reality, I guess we're kind of bending reality.

CLARK

There is no spoon...

SHAR

Yeah, maybe don't think too much about that...

MILLER

Kepler-442b, here we come.

TIME CUT:

INT. MOBIUS I - CLARK'S QUARTERS

CLOSE ON Clark as she lays in her bunk, her sleep gradually growing more restless as she turns from side to side.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. EARTH ATMOSPHERE - DAY

Clark, call sign WILDCARD, adeptly pilots her advanced fighter aircraft over a dried lake bed in the middle of nowhere.

INT. CLARK'S AIRCRAFT - COCKPIT - DAY

Rocketing through a smoky, orange tinted, mid-day sky the occasional cloud blasts past Clark's canopy as she begins a sharp right bank.

TOWER (V.O.)

Wildcard you have a bogie at twelve o'clock, less than five miles.

WILDCARD

Copy that.

TOWER (V.O.)

Bogie descending to one four thousand.

Clark's radar intercept officer, CRACKERJACK, seated directly behind her, chimes in with a deep but feminine voice.

CRACKERJACK (O.C.)

Radar contact tally-ho.

TOWER (V.O.)

Roger that.

WILDCARD

He's descending now... and he's bulls-eye one-one-six, seventy-six now, twenty thousand, I'm a mile and a half in trail.

CRACKERJACK (O.C.)

Twenty five hundred feet back in the clouds still.

TOWER (V.O.)

Wildcard, move operations 20 miles to the southeast. You have a bogie transmitting from the north -- correction southeast to the northwest.

WILDCARD

O.K. Copy that. Breaking off now --

TOWER (V.O.)

-- Look out Wildcard!

The bogie in front comes flying into view from a braking maneuver, forcing Wildcard to slam the stick forward to avoid a collision.

CRACKERJACK (O.C.)

Oh shit!

The aircraft couples one yaw to the next as the tail swings around... becoming an ever increasing, out of control, downward spiral.

Wildcard desperately pulls back on the stick, fighting g-force to correct the spiral but it continues unabated.

A beat.

The right engine suddenly fails, further intensifying the aircraft's spin.

WILDCARD

Engine one is out. This is not good.

Crackerjack is pinned to her instrument panel by the overwhelming g-forces generated from the downward spiral.

CRACKERJACK

I'm pinned down -- I can't move.

The ground rushes towards the plane at an astounding speed.

WILDCARD

Eject! Eject!

CRACKERJACK

(frantic)

I can't -- I'm pinned. Go! go!
You've got to go!

END FLASHBACK.

INT. MOBIUS I - CLARK'S QUARTERS

With sweat pouring off of her and a look of sheer terror, Clark bolts straight upright in her bunk, awakened by the overwhelming nightmare.

CLARK

Beth! No...

Slumping back down in her damp sheets, she stares blankly upward in a seemingly catatonic state.

Her humble quarters are home to a bunk, a chest and a small desk with a hologram-on-glass computer terminal on it.

Tucked into the corner of the glass viewscreen of the terminal, a picture of Clark and her co-pilot is visible. The pair stand arm in arm, wearing their flight suits and posing in front of the aircraft from her dream.

EXT. INTERSTELLAR SPACE

SUPER: 1 Year Later Mobius Time

A beat.

SUPER: 7 Years Later Earth Time

The Mobius I cruises through space powered by the Hawking radiation from its Schwarzschild Kugelblitz drive -- sixteen gamma ray lasers powering and containing a micro-black hole behind it.

Despite its invisibility, the black hole itself is given away by the radical gravitational lensing all around it and the consumption of the red laser light blasting into it.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Ives, Shar and Miller work busily at their posts while on the main screen, the long communications boom is visible in its stowed position.

IVES

Ok... Shar, Miller, com's drop
number 7 can begin at your leisure.

SHAR

All systems nominal on the Red
QUEEN and powering up now.

On the viewscreen, the luminescent red bar running the inner circumference of the Mobius I begins glowing brightly as red-white lightning starts arcing all across it in a two dimensional plane. The entire inner void of the Mobius I transforms into a blazing red portal.

SHAR (CONT'D)

Ok, we have 600 seconds to get the
boom in, make the data transfer and
get out.

MILLER

Communications boom operations
nominal and deploying... now.

On the viewscreen, the communications boom begins to deploy into the Red QUEEN's portal.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

The partially completed Mobius II, with Red QUEEN portal activated, fills the frame with Earth and the moon as her backdrop.

Several smaller ships and astronauts busily work away on her hull as the communications boom from the Mobius I begins to emerge from the portal.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Miller continues to tend to the communications boom from his station.

MILLER

Boom is fully deployed and ready to
downlink our data.

Shar likewise attends to her station -- monitoring the Red QUEEN and her portal.

SHAR

Quantum Entanglement Einstein
Nacelle nominal. Portal is stable.

IVES (O.C.)

Proceed with downlink when ready.

MILLER

Downlink commenced.

SHAR

500 seconds remaining.

An alarm begins to sound as a red light now flashes through the flight deck.

IVES

What the hell is going on...

Miller begins frantically examining his terminal.

MILLER

We've got a massive radiation
spike... ionizing radiation --
gamma radiation.

IVES

The shielding -- from the magnetic coil -- we should be protected.

SHAR

Yeah, but some of the electronics might be another story.

MILLER

100 mSv. If the radiation get's any higher we will be fucked.

IVES

We may have walked into the ass-end of a supernova blast. Miller, bring that boom back in immediately.

MILLER

I'm on it.

SHAR

No, no, no... the Red QUEEN is not happy... we've got electronics issues... attempting to stabilize... power is dropping.

The lights on the main deck sputter momentarily.

EXT. INTERSTELLAR SPACE

CLOSE ON The Red QUEEN's portal as the Communications boom slowly begins to pull back through it.

For just an instant, the portal sputters and the communications boom severs off catastrophically.

An instant later and the portal fails completely.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

CLOSE ON the Mobius II's Red QUEEN portal as the communications boom from the Mobius I is slowly being extracted back to interstellar space.

The portal sputters before failing completely, sending half of the Mobius I's communications boom floating off into low earth orbit.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Miller continues monitoring his station as the lights on the flight deck flicker again momentarily before coming back on fully.

MILLER

Radiation levels are dropping.
Sixty mSv but we have lost the
communications boom.

On the main viewscreen the catastrophe with the communications boom continues to play out.

SHAR

The Red QUEEN is off line and I
can't get her back.

MILLER

The Kugelblitz Drive powered
through it just fine. No
anomalies.

SHAR

Some minor issues with the fusion
reactor and the oxygenator but
other than that we're good.

TANAKA (V.O.)

Tanaka to flight deck. What the
hell is going on. Are we ok here?

IVES

There was a radiation surge while
we were in the middle of a
downlink. We lost the
communications boom and the Red
QUEEN is offline. We didn't get
too badly cooked but some of the
electronics did not fair as well.

TANAKA (V.O.)

Well, shit.

TIME CUT:

INT. MOBIUS I - EXERCISE FACILITY

Commander Ives, wearing shorts, a tank top and a pair of boxing gloves, hammers away at a hanging punching bag in the ship's small gym.

With the agility of a veteran boxer he circles the bag, landing increasingly heavy blows as the expression on his face slowly transforms from one of calm discipline into unadulterated rage.

IVES
Arrrrrgghhhh!!!

TIME CUT:

INT. MOBIUS I - SHOWER FACILITY

Stepping from a narrow shower cylinder, Ives grabs a towel from a narrow cubby where crewmembers can keep their clothes while cleaning up after a workout.

A laminated picture falls out of his shirt pocket from the cubby and onto the floor.

Leaning over, Ives retrieves the picture from the floor.

INSERT PICTURE: Ives in a tuxedo and Beth looking beautiful in her wedding dress on their wedding day.

Holding the picture with one hand he runs his thumb over Beth lovingly.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. IVES' HOUSE - BETH'S WAKE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Mobius I crew along with a hundred other people from the ISA community have gathered to pay respects to their fallen comrade at Ives' home.

Clark, wearing a formal black dress, takes a seat in a chair beside a semi-despondent Ives who wears a tailored black suit.

Barely registering her presence, Ives' turns towards Clark with a blank stare.

CLARK
I'm so sorry Ives... I've been through it a million times in my head... I loved her so much and I just couldn't save her... I went through a cloud for just a moment... A split second my eyes were off it and then there it was -- right fucking there.

IVES

We both loved her Jane... you did everything you could.

CLARK

She was pinned and she pleaded with me to eject -- pleaded with me to save myself.

IVES

(with a weak smile)
That's my Beth.

CLARK

I'm so sorry Ives. I'm so sorry.

TIME CUT:

INT. IVES' HOUSE - BETH'S WAKE - ENTRY WAY - NIGHT

With the wake coming to a close, Ives stands in the entry way of his home thanking those that came for paying their respects.

As flight director Meesha Dhillon shakes his hand, Ives pulls her aside for just a moment.

IVES

(whispering)
I need her on the crew Meesh. She was Beth's protégé and she's the only one qualified to do the job.

DHILLON

(whispering)
Were it up to me I'd have her on the crew in a minute Ives. You know that. You know I would... but her psyche profile took a nose dive after the accident.

IVES

(whispering)
And mine hasn't? It's gotta be her Meesh... and she's got nothing left. Just like me. She's perfect for the job.

END FLASHBACK.

TIME CUT:

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The clouded, blue and green planet, Kepler-442b looks alien and foreboding against a backdrop of stars with its cryo-volcanic moon in the distance leaving a luminescent plume of gasses in its orbital wake.

PAN RIGHT before the Mobius I spacecraft emerges from a sea of stars on a trajectory towards the alien world, eclipsing a red-dwarf star that blazes angrily behind it.

Both the ion engines along the ring shank and the Schwarzschild Kugelblitz singularity face forward of the Mobius I, providing braking for the incoming spacecraft.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

The Mobius I crew tend to their stations as Kepler-442b looms large on the main viewscreen before them.

MILLER

All that green we're seeing down there is exactly what you think it is.

DORSEY

Fields of cannabis?

SHAR

What you think it might be and what I'm sure you desperately want it to be Dorsey, are not the same thing.

MILLER

Well, it is vast swaths of vegetation covering upwards of forty percent of the planet... the wavelengths reflected here... it's almost all forest. The trees are enormous.

DORSEY

As for orbital insertion we're going to be coming up on periapsis pretty quickly here.

IVES

Buckle in everybody.

The crew clip into 4 point harnesses to help with the adverse affects of the orbital insertion g-force.

On the main viewscreen the horizon of Kepler-442b gets closer and closer.

Mobius I begins to subtly shake and vibrate as the ship takes a speedy sharp turn around the planet.

DORSEY
(straining)
Ok, here we go. Two minutes twenty seconds and counting.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The Mobius I flies in like a bat out of hell, AI actively working the ion engines as it grazes the atmosphere of the planet in an aerobraking maneuver.

DORSEY (V.O.)
Two minutes...

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

A look of incredulity crosses Miller's face as he watches his terminal's display light up.

MILLER
What the hell!?

IVES
Miller?

MILLER
A radio frequency hot spot just popped over the horizon... It's in orbit.

TANAKA
It's the red-dwarf.

MILLER
No... no. It's not the star... we're seeing radio frequency data transmissions.

CLARK
That's not possible.

A small object appears on the main viewscreen in the distance -- the Kaldorian Adjudicator.

IVES
What the fuck is that.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

Mobius I skims through the edge of Kepler-442b's atmosphere as the Kaldorian Adjudicator crosses the horizon and comes sharply into view -- emerging from the shadows of Kepler-442b and into the fiery red glare of its parent star.

DORSEY (V.O.)

Periapsis... seventy seconds to go.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Clark works madly at her station taking in information from multiple displays.

CLARK

I've got all kinds of energy readings coming off that thing sir... it's definitely a spacecraft... and it's absolutely gigantic.

MILLER

Over four kilometers long.

DORSY

On our current trajectory we'll pass at a distance of two thousand kilometers.

IVES

Kill everything you can that might give away our location. Minimal power to all systems.

CLARK

On it sir.

TANAKA

Shinigami...

MILLER

This is mission fucking over man. What the hell... I didn't sign up for this shit.

DORSEY

Thirty seconds...

IVES

Miller... enough. Get your shit together.

SHAR
Shinigami? What are you talking
about Tanaka?

TANAKA
It's nothing.

MILLER
No, please... enlighten us Tanaka.
What the hell are you going on
about?

TANAKA
Shinigami... it's a harbinger of
death and darkness in Japanese
folklore.

MILLER
Oh, that's just fucking great.
Maybe you should get your shit
together too Tanaka.

IVES
Enough already!

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The shaking of the ship gradually lessens as the Mobius I
passes undetected far beneath the path of the Kaldorian
Adjudicator and away from the planet on an elliptical orbit.

SHAR (V.O.)
Would you get a load of that.

MILLER (V.O.)
Sir, the RF data transmissions from
that ship are streaming to
locations on the planet's surface.
Three of them.

Following the trajectory of the Mobius one, a swath of the
planet comes into view where planetary-level deforestation
has clearly taken place.

CLARK (V.O.)
Jesus.

DORSEY (V.O.)
And we're clear. Restraints
optional.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Miller continues to frenetically absorb incoming data at his station while the scene of deforestation plays out on the main viewscreen.

The crew begin unbuckling their restraints as they return to 1G.

TANAKA

Planetary level deforestation is what we're looking at right there.

SHAR

What the hell could do that?

CLARK

I'm pretty sure that's not sustainable...

MILLER

One of the three RF communication points correlates perfectly with the northern tip of that deforested patch.

IVES

On our next orbit I want to deploy those Sky Runners to investigate the RF ground site. We need to figure out what the hell is going on here.

DORSEY

Sir, the transmissions from that ship could interfere with the Sky Runner's remote capabilities.

IVES

Dorsey and Clark, I want you piloting those Sky Runners. Simple, covert reconnaissance. No unnecessary adventures.

CLARK

Sir... I am absolutely up for the job but are you sure you want me piloting?

IVES

Yes. Absolutely Clark. You were hands-down the best fighter pilot in Yellowjacket squadron and have my complete and total confidence.

TIME CUT:

EXT. KEPLER-442B - FOREST CANOPY - DAY

Two Sky Runners fly fast out over the forest canopy.

Clark leads with Dorsey running wingman as the two approach the massive deforestation zone.

CLARK (V.O.)

Ok, let's bring it right down. Ten percent thrust and noise dampening going in.

DORSEY (V.O.)

Roger that.

INT. CLARK'S SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Beep! Beep! Beep! An alert sounds in the cockpit and Clark quickly peruses her dashboard to determine the cause.

CLARK

I've got a bogie at our six o'clock.

INT. DORSEY'S SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Dorsey also begins scanning the readouts in front of him for a beat before the alert sounds in the cockpit for him as well.

DORSEY

Affirmative... follow along the tree line but stay away from the clearing.

CLARK

Whatever it is, it's closing in fast Dorsey.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - FOREST CANOPY - DAY

Dropping down, out of the clouds, Adu and Barduk power forward, flying down between the two Sky Runners.

INT. CLARK'S SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Clark looks over her shoulder and out through her canopy, startled by the sudden appearance of an alien dragon rider following alongside her on a massive dragon-like steed.

Barduk locks eyes with a disconcerted Clark.

BARDUK (V.O.)
(telepathically)
We mean you no harm, stranger.

CLARK
(startled)
What the hell!

Clark looks around the cockpit, confused and disoriented.

BARDUK
(telepathically)
Don't be alarmed -- unless you mean us harm.

CLARK
Dorsey, are you hearing this?

DORSEY (V.O.)
Hearing what? Are you seeing this!?

CLARK
That thing's voice in your head -- I think I'm losing my mind.

DORSEY
I'm with you on feeling like you're losing your mind, but no voices in my head... at least not yet.

CLARK
How can I hear and understand you? I must be losing my mind -- now I'm even talking back.

BARDUK (V.O.)
 (telepathically)
 My species can communicate with most species, whatever their level might be, but not with words... there is a clearing ahead. Land your craft and there is much we can discuss.

CLARK
 It's telling me that there is a clearing ahead and it wants us to land and -- talk?

INT. DORSEY'S SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Dorsey toggles some switches on his HUD while Barduk and Clark's ship are visible through his canopy.

CLARK
 Mobius I, this is Clark. You're not going to believe this...

EXT. KEPLER-442B - FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Clark sits upon a fallen tree in the wide clearing before the two landed Sky Runners while Dorsey nervously stands nearby. Before them, Adu stands beside the towering gray-white Barduk who acts as an inter-species interpreter.

CLARK
 So we've come in the hope of establishing colonies for our people here, but we did not anticipate finding this world inhabited.

DORSEY
 When we arrived here, in orbit, there was a spacecraft of gigantic proportions, also in orbit around the planet.

Barduk looks to Adu as though exchanging information.

ADU
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 They are Kaldorians. They came six orbits ago and seek to strip our world of its forests and fresh waters...

(MORE)

ADU (CONT'D)

their own world is a shadow of what it once was and they have depleted many of their own resources, forcing them to look elsewhere to survive. They see us -- the Oenari and Aenami -- as a scourge upon them and seek to eradicate and enslave us. They learned quickly though that we will not submit to them without a fight.

CLARK

How are you able to fight against such advanced technology with a handful of captured Kaldorian blasters and winged um...

Adu raises a hand and strokes Barduk's side affectionately.

ADU

(Oenari; subtitled)

We have our means of protecting ourselves but our Aenami companions, once numerous, now number three. The Kaldorians see them as their biggest threat here and have hunted them to the brink of extinction. Without them we are certain to perish.

CLARK

You take great risk in telling us of your plight, especially in light of our desire to colonize your planet... for that we are grateful.

ADU

(Oenari; subtitled)

At this point, we have no recourse to achieve victory over our enemies so we can only hope that you can be allies rather than aggressors... and if you do seek to establish a colony here, having the planet's resources stripped away is surely as problematic for you as it is for us.

DORSEY

Yes it is.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

With a curtain of stars and Kepler-442b as a backdrop, the pair of Sky Runners dock in synchronicity to the orbiting Mobius I.

INT. MOBIUS I - MESS HALL

The crew of the Mobius I surround a rectangular table while enjoying a basic meal together.

SHAR

This whole scenario really just boggles the mind. How can they even communicate with us? Do you even trust them?

Shar passes Dorsey a jug of water.

DORSEY

(filling his cup)

What they're telling us checks all the boxes for what we're actually seeing here so I feel like yeah... they're telling the truth.

CLARK

(with a mouthful of food)

The planetary level deforestation, the ground based concentration camps, that massive spacecraft in orbit around the planet... I don't know that there even could be an alternate hypothesis for what's going on here that would be remotely coherent.

IVES

(pushing away his plate)

So Clark and Dorsey, we'll join the Oenari as requested at the agreed location and time.

DORSEY

They said at sunrise so that will be 14:34 hours for the location given.

IVES

So Shar, Tanaka and Miller, I want you to maintain our reduced power mode and stay dark to that Kaldorian monstrosity of a ship.

(MORE)

IVES (CONT'D)

Shar, we need the Red QUEEN up and running now more than ever so get it done. Whatever you have to do. Whatever you need you'll have.

SHAR

Just need a few more days and about a gram of gold for the ELE conductors. If your friends on the surface can help us out that would be great, otherwise I'm going to have to salvage something from the ship.

CLARK

Yeah, we don't have anything you can salvage from the ship Shar.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OENARI - DAWN

The pair of Sky Runners from the Mobius I dip down out of the clouds and approach an ancient and magnificent temple, carved from the side of a mountain.

CLARK (V.O.)

Would you get a load of that...

Four huge columns and towering wooden doors mark the entrance to the temple where a huge stone slab serves as a landing pad nearby.

A pair of huge and intimidating Aenami are carved into the wooden doors of the temple, speaking to a time of greatness past.

The Sky Runner lands at the pad where four Oenari warriors cautiously await them.

INT. TEMPLE OF THE OENARI

A chamber of formidable size with a grand entry appears to have been carved right from the mountain itself with expert artisantry.

Giant wooden double doors beckon away from this place and a magnificent throne stands to the opposite end of the chamber.

AMAKUS, an Oenari king of significant stature sits upon the throne with Margul, Silver and Adu nearby.

In a niche, to one side of the chamber, Bennu and Barduk attend to an exhausted Shard who warms a clutch of newly laid Aenami eggs.

Other Oenari tend to their responsibilities around the chamber.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

It was unwise to share as much information as you did Adu. These interlopers... we know almost nothing about them.

ADU

(Oenari; subtitled)

We have little to lose at this point my Lord. If we cannot trust these Humans as they call themselves, the whole planet is doomed to the Kaldorians and we will be soon forgotten. We must attempt to forge an alliance.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

You may be right Adu of the blue clouds, but it should be for me to decide what we share and who we share it with.

ADU

(Oenari; subtitled)

Agreed my Lord.

The great wooden double doors at the far end of the chamber open.

Ives, Clark and Dorsey, escorted by four Oenari warriors, descend several stone steps and cross the chamber to the Throne.

CLARK

Barduk!... This is the one that could read our minds and communicate with us.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

Welcome to the Temple of the Sky. I am Amakus -- leader to my people and ruler of this land.

Barduk moves in closer to the throne and the newly arrived visitors to assist telepathically.

IVES

(slightly taken aback)

What the... I understand you... somehow... excuse me King Amakus and thank you for your warm welcome. I am Commander Vincent Ives of the Earth ship Mobius I and this is my Flight Engineer, Jane Clark and my Flight Control Specialist Mike Dorsey. We did not expect to find any intelligent life here by any stretch of the imagination.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

Well, life you have found here indeed but for how much longer becomes a more pressing question with each passing day.

IVES

Our ship -- in orbit above -- it has no armaments to speak of but it does have a portal capable of bringing more ships here. It's currently undergoing repair and we are hoping you might be able to assist us.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

More ships? Just what we need. There are more than enough ships here already.

MARGUL

(Oenari; subtitled)

My Lord... please.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

Those ground based ships. We have taken out countless numbers at such great cost. The Aenami are on the verge of extinction from tending to our aggressors. They hunt us incessantly and we fight as best we can.

IVES

In order to bring our ships here we need a small amount of gold to complete the repairs to our portal.

Ives points to a golden vessel on a nearby shelf.

IVES (CONT'D)

I believe that may be gold right there. Your people perhaps value the metal as mine do.

DORSEY

We only require a small amount.

IVES

There is a ship in orbit here around your planet. It is of incredibly large size.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

The Kaldorian Adjudicator. That ship has cast its shadow over this world for 6 orbits now. We can see it from the ground here but we are at a technological disadvantage and lack the ability to reach it. We learned long ago -- both the Aenami and the Oenari -- to live in unison with each other and the nature of our world. These Kaldorians are an affront to everything we hold dear and value. Perhaps living in alignment with your environment only puts you at a disadvantage to potential aggressors.

IVES

We too are at a disadvantage in the face of the technology that these Kaldorians possess. We are creative though and hopefully with our portal repaired we can find a way to save your planet from them.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

Adu tells me that you seek to establish a colony for your people here.

IVES

In exchange for land for my own people to settle, we would assist you as we can in eradicating these Kaldorians. Like them, we for a long time abused our own world. We lived out of alignment with nature and we paid a price. We have learned our lesson but at the cost of the habitability of our own world. With too many tipping points passed and run-away chain reactions in progress, our world will no longer support my species and we must find a new home for ourselves as well.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

There is a southern continent here, across the Great Glass Sea. It is uninhabited and remote compared to the other four continents. If you can eradicate the Kaldorians, and live in unison with the nature of this world, then the continent will be yours for your people to colonize.

Amakus motions to the gold vessel and Margul retrieves it from the shelf for his king who then tosses it haphazardly to Ives.

Ives barely catches it.

AMAKUS (CONT'D)

(Oenari; subtitled)

You may have your gold... and whatever else you may need to rid us of this Kaldorian scourge. There comes a time Commander Ives, when the temple feels more like a prison, the nights no longer bring sleep, and all that you're left with is a struggle to save your people.

IVES

I know exactly what you mean King Amakus of the Oenari.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - LANDING PAD - DAY

Escorted by four Oenari warriors, Ives, Dorsey and Clark approach the two Sky Runners they arrived in on the massive stone slab before the temple gates.

CLARK

(to Ives)

Sir, with your permission I'd like to stay behind with one of the Sky Runners and get to know more about the Oenari here. Get a better gauge of trust and traditions and history... possibly figure out how we can better assist them.

DORSEY

That's actually not a bad idea but for different reasons in my mind. If you're willing to stay here with the Sky Runner we can maintain a communications channel with the Oenari while you're visiting.

IVES

So I'm not saying no but I want to make sure you understand the risk involved not being with the ship. I may need you to return at a moments notice so you need to be prepared for that.

CLARK

Thank you Commander! I will be prepared to return at the drop of a hat.

DORSEY

Do you need to ask if you can stay first?

CLARK

Barduk already knows... they are looking forward to learning from us as well.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

ESTABLISHING SHOT flying by the Kaldorian Adjudicator, past Kepler-442b, and then on to the Mobius I as the two spacecraft orbit the planet in opposition to each other.

The Mobius I is using the planet in an attempt to shield itself from discovery by the massive Adjudicator.

The single Sky Runner is attached to the hull and the AI controlled ion engines actively compensate for the imbalance in spin due to its missing twin.

INT. KALDORIAN ADJUDICATOR - COMMAND DECK

The intimidating robed Kaldorian, Lord Malek, stands before a tactical hologram of Kepler-442b in the center of the command deck.

A pair of military subordinates stand nearby while others go about their business at their stations.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Yes m'lord. The two unknown ships led us to those coordinates and on further investigation, it looks like there's an ancient Oenari temple there.

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Carved right from the side of the mountain.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

We have a confirmed sighting of one of the last remaining Aenami leaving there as well.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

This is the break we've been waiting for. Send a battalion immediately and eradicate them.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Yes my Lord.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

And about the unidentified ship... orbiting in opposition to us...

Malek gestures with his hand and the hologram spins around revealing the Mobius I in opposition to the Adjudicator.

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Yes my Lord... scans indicate that their technology is rather primitive for a species capable of interstellar travel.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

It appears they have just barely the technology to have gotten themselves here and have no armaments... even their propulsion system uses highly unstable and dangerous technology.

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

It's amazing they were able to make it here at all m'lord.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

I want that ship captured... send an interceptor and do not destroy them. We need to know where they've come from. There could be a bonanza of resources wherever their home world might be.

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Yes m'lord.

EXT. SPACE, KEPLER 442B ORBIT

The Mobius I circles the planet in its orbital configuration - - spinning at one G with its sporadically firing ion engines circling the ship's outer perimeter.

ZOOMING IN on a trio of compartments, the camera focuses in on the center-most one before passing through the hull of the Mobius I...

INT. MOBIUS I - ENGINEERING DECK

A trio of consecutive, pressurized compartments along the ring shank make up the engineering deck of the Mobius I. The ship's fusion reactor, magnetic field generator, Red QUEEN infrastructure and Schwarzschild Kugelblitz capacitors fill the compartments while leaving some room for maintenance access and a workspace.

Mission Specialist Miriam Shar busily loads a series of delicate ELE conductors onto racks in a small vacuum chamber within the workspace.

IVES (V.O.)
(over the intercom)
Ives to engineering. What's the status on repairs to the Red QUEEN?

SHAR
Commander, the affected ELE conductors are in the vacuum chamber and physical vapor deposition will be commencing momentarily.

IVES (V.O.)
(over the intercom)
Ok, keep me apprised of any issues and let me know immediately when she's back online.

SHAR
Roger that Commander.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Ives, Tanaka, Dorsey and Miller man their stations as a visual of Kepler-442b is visible on the main viewscreen.

MILLER
Sir, I'm seeing some activity down on the planet surface. It looks like two Kaldorian ships... transports maybe. They're closing in on the Oenari temple where we met in the mountain yesterday.

DORSEY
Clark...

Ives immediately opens a channel to the ground based Sky Runner.

IVES
Clark this is Ives, do you copy?

A beat.

IVES (CONT'D)
Clark, you need to get the hell out of there right now.
(MORE)

IVES (CONT'D)
 We've got two inbound bogies coming
 at you from the Adjudicator.
 Likely transports.

CLARK (V.O.)
 (over the intercom)
 Commander, I read you loud and
 clear. I need to alert the Oenari
 and then I'm on my way.

MILLER
 Sir, she has no time. She's gotta
 get out of there right now.

IVES
 You have no time Clark, get out of
 there now. That's an order.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - LANDING PAD - DAY

Clark steps from the docking port on the Sky Runner and
 gestures to two guards standing nearby.

CLARK
 There are two ships coming in!
 Shit... they have no idea what I'm
 saying.

The two guards look at each other in confusion.

Clark closes her eyes in concentration.

CLARK (CONT'D)
 (telepathically)
 Barduk... hear me... there are two
 incoming ships... transports
 possibly filled with Kaldorians.
 You have no time.

Just as Clark's eyes flash back open, Barduk bursts into the
 sky behind her from the temple entrance with Adu firmly in
 the saddle.

Wasting no time and jumping into the Sky Runner, Clark
 quickly fires up the engines before blasting off in close
 pursuit.

INT. SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Clark quickly catches up to Barduk and Adu as they power
 their way gracefully up through the clear Keplerian sky.

A beat before Margul and Silver also come into view through Clark's cockpit canopy.

CLARK
(telepathically)
Barduk and Silver... I have no armaments on my Sky Runner and I'm not sure what you all can do here.

BARDUK
(telepathically)
When clouds abound we can channel the lightning to wreak havoc on our enemies.

Clark glances around the canopy noting the crystal clear blue sky all around.

CLARK
Well, the weather does not look favorable for your unique skillset.

BARDUK
(telepathically)
We will do what we can... Adu says if you can draw them out and get their attention we can engage them physically to try to force them out of the sky.

The two transports come into view in the distance through the Sky Runner's canopy as Barduk and Silver peel away for an assault on their flanks.

Clark, suddenly besieged by a series of PTSD episodes -- her fight-or-flight system going into overdrive -- tries desperately to shake them.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

-- Clark slamming the stick forward to avoid the collision.

-- Her aircraft in an out of control downward spiral.

-- The right engine failing as the aircraft spins.

-- Beth: I'm pinned down... I can't move!

END FLASHBACK.

CLARK

Not now... Not now.... Ok, I'm
turning tail and hoping they take
the bait. They've definitely
spotted me by now.

Clark pulls some heavy G's in an abrupt one hundred and
eighty degree turn.

BARDUK

(telepathically)
They are on you now... watch
yourself.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - ATMOSPHERE - DAY

Clark pilots her Sky Runner expertly through a series of
evasive maneuvers as the two troop transports close on her
position.

Blasters begin firing from the pair of aggressors as they
struggle to pin Clark down.

INT. SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Clark continues with evasive maneuvers, glancing over her
shoulder every few moments to take in the scene playing out
behind her.

SILVER

(telepathically)
Dive and we'll have one of them.

Without hesitation, Clark pushes the yoke straight down,
putting the Sky Runner into a dive.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

-- Clark slamming the stick forward to avoid the collision.

-- Her aircraft in an out of control downward spiral.

END FLASHBACK.

Clark continues to try to shake off the confusion of her
persistent and debilitating episodes.

CLARK

Let's see you follow me now
fuckers.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - ATMOSPHERE - DAY

The Sky Runner drops out of the sky and the Kaldorian ships continue their pursuit.

A beat before both Silver and Barduk, along with their brave Oenari riders, latch onto the side of one of the two transports from its flank.

Margul and Adu both pull liberated Kaldorian blasters from their saddle holsters and open fire on the ship's blasters and cockpit respectively.

Clark pulls up and levels off her dive as the entire skirmish approaches the forest canopy with Kaldorians still in pursuit.

INT. KALDORIAN TRANSPORT - COCKPIT - DAY

The KALDORIAN PILOT guides the transport ship towards the Sky Runner while through the cockpit canopy, the indigenous inhabitants of the planet are visible, taking a piece out of the second transport.

The KALDORIAN GUNNER fires away repeatedly at the Sky Runner through a mask of growing frustration as Clark out-maneuvers them time and again.

KALDORIAN GUNNER

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Keep this damn thing still for one second would you.

KALDORIAN PILOT

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Don't worry... I'll give you something to shoot at that you can actually hit.

The Kaldorian pilot briefly peers over his shoulder before dropping back in a maneuver that puts his ship directly behind and beside the transport that's under attack by the Oenari.

KALDORIAN PILOT (CONT'D)

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Now shoot those bloody Aenami and their riders.

The Kaldorian gunner draws a bead on the friendly ship, attempting to target its Aenami and Oenari attackers visible through the canopy.

KALDORIAN GUNNER
 (Kaldorian; subtitled)
 This may not go well for our
 friends in transport B but if we
 kill an Aenami there will be
 promotions.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! The Kaldorian Gunner unleashes the fury
 of its guns on the side of the friendly transport.

KALDORIAN PILOT #2 (V.O.)
 (over the intercom)
 Transport B, what are you doing!?
 Hold fire, hold fire!

As the protests come in over the intercom, Margul loses his
 blaster and nearly his life to one blast and then Adu takes a
 hit from another that sends him falling from the side of the
 ship.

Plummeting from the transport, Barduk and Silver immediately
 drop off to intercept their fallen comrade.

INT. SKY RUNNER - COCKPIT - DAY

Clark is wracked by another set of episodes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

-- Her aircraft in an out of control downward spiral.

-- Beth: I'm pinned down... I can't move.

END FLASHBACK.

She shakes it off once again.

Now noting that the blaster fire on her ship has tapered off
 dramatically, Clark takes another assessing glance over her
 shoulder.

Suddenly...

CRACKERJACK (V.O.)
 Go! go! You've got to go!

Seeing that the second transport has engaged her comrades
 that were clinging to the first, she takes decisive action
 and heeds Crackerjack's call.

CLARK
 Eat my ass motherfuckers!

Clark simultaneously cuts power with the throw of a speed brake above her head and reefs on the yoke with all her might.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - ATMOSPHERE - DAY

WIDE ON the Sky Runner as it appears to fall back like a rocket in a hard brake, ass end first, smashing into the transport and obliterating the cockpit along with its Kaldorian occupants.

Clark's POV as the Sky Runner, now in a flat spin, alarm blaring, begins to disintegrate all around her in the aftermath of the catastrophic collision.

CLARK

This one's for you Beth... I'm coming home...

Behind Clark, the devastated transport, torn asunder from the collision with the Sky Runner, begins hemorrhaging hundreds of Kaldorian soldiers as it plummets from the sky.

CLARK (CONT'D)

I'm coming home...

The rest of the Sky Runner gradually falls away from Clark as the alarm ceases, leaving her in a spinning solo free fall.

As the spin slows, Clark, with eyes closed, is overcome with a calmness and acceptance that completely transcends her dire circumstances.

Then... just as she's about to meet her end on the forest floor, Barduk's mighty claws grab Clark by her shoulders and pull her away from a certain death.

As Barduk pulls up and the pair fly out across the forest canopy, the crippled transport smashes into the forest floor, exploding in a shower of Kaldorian soldiers.

BARDUK

(telepathically)

You're ok now little human.

CLARK

Yeah... I think maybe I am.

Barduk helps Clark to climb into the saddle with a gentle sideways maneuver.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Adu?...

BARDUK

(telepathically)

Adu was hit by a blaster. Margul and Silver have him but they are done with this fight... the last transport is headed back towards the temple. We have to stop it.

CLARK

I'm not sure what we can do. I have no blaster and you have no clouds.

BARDUK

(telepathically)

We will find a way.

CLARK

(looking down)

Thanks for the save.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

As Ives, Tanaka, Dorsey and Miller continue to monitor their stations, Miller looks to Ives with a grim expression.

MILLER

We've lost the Sky Runner sir. The transponder shows it plummeted out of sky to the forest floor.

TANAKA

Not Clark...

IVES

Damn it Clark... not you too.

MILLER

One of the Kaldorian transports is gone too sir.

IVES

I'll bet she took one out with her.

A proximity alarm suddenly sounds from Miller's station and he quickly assesses the situation.

MILLER

Sir, we have a ship approaching on our orbital plane... Kaldorian signature... coming at us star-side. Two minutes to contact.

IVES

Damn it, red alert. Get a camera on that and put it on the screen.

Red lights begin to flash through the flight deck and then a beat before the Kaldorian Interceptor appears on the main screen.

From the front, the Interceptor is a carbon black inverted triangle with a forward facing cockpit and a plethora of blasters mounted under its top wings.

MILLER

On the screen now sir. A hundred seconds to contact.

IVES

Can we maintain our distance?

DORSEY

We'd need to reorient the Ion engines to shank-side. Not enough time sir.

TANAKA

Sir, the Kugelblitz drive will get us out of here real fast... right now.

IVES

Dorsey, get the Mobius I oriented so we can get some distance between us and that Kaldorian ship while maintaining orbit. Tanaka, use as much juice from the Kugelblitz drive as you need to maintain distance from that ship. Miller, start getting those ion engines shank side... everybody, buckle up and hold on.

The crew begin buckling into their restraints, preparing for the forward acceleration to come and the pivoting of the ships compartments with her ion engines.

MILLER

Rotating compartments ninety degrees sir.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

Orbiting Kepler-442b, the Mobius I orients itself to reach a higher orbit and maintain distance from the approaching Kaldorian Interceptor.

The luminosity of the sixteen gamma ray lasers containing the Kugelblitz -- the black hole singularity -- suddenly drops by about 10 percent before the Mobius I launches into a higher orbit at phenomenal speed.

Taking off, the ships compartments slowly pivot ninety degrees, angling the ion engines shank side in alignment with the Kugelblitz drive.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

The crew, now strapped into their stations, struggle to maintain composure as the ship rapidly soars to a higher orbit.

DORSEY

The Kaldorian Interceptor is accelerating as well sir, but we're leaving it in the proverbial dust.

IVES

Shar, do you copy?

SHAR (V.O.)

Bumpy ride Commander.

IVES

How long before you can have the Red QUEEN online?

SHAR

The hardware is ready to go sir, I just need to get it installed. If you can take your foot off the gas and tone down the acceleration for five minutes... seven tops, I can get her back online.

IVES

Ok, let me know the instant you're done and advise of any problems.

SHAR

Understood Commander.

DORSEY

Sir, we can dial back the acceleration. These Kaldorians may be hi-tech but they've got nothing on a Kugelblitz drive --

MILLER

-- You mean they're not crazy enough to use a Kugelblitz drive.

Ives reaches into his shirt pocket and retrieves the wedding picture of him and Beth. He looks at it for a moment before tucking it into glass display in front of him.

IVES

Ok, back off the acceleration to give Shar some time to work. Maintain current distance from that Kaldorian ship until I say otherwise. Tanaka... I'm going to need your expertise. We're going after that Adjudicator.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - DUSK

Outside the massive gates of the mountain temple, Amakus leads his Oenari priests in an ancient and time honored ritual of storms.

As the priests engage in a guttural chant, Amakus gestures to the heavens above with his staff.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

Lord of Storms, your season is upon us again at last. We call upon you reluctantly, but today we summon thee in our time of need. Bring unto us your thunder. Bring unto us your sky fire. Bring unto us your rain and hail and wind and fury. This day, Stormbringer, we call upon your favor!

TILT UP beyond the mountain where storm clouds are visible, slowly gathering in the skies above the ancient Oenari temple.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - ATMOSPHERE - DUSK

Margul rides an exhausted Silver through the skies towards the Oenari temple with an injured Adu over the front of the saddle.

A blackened blast mark mars one of Silver's wings, notably hindering his flight.

MARGUL
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 (stroking Silver's mane)
 You can do it Silver... just a
 little further to the temple.

Flying through the mountains now, the trio reach the temple gates where Amakus' ritual is just finishing.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Almost crashing, Silver lands near the gates where the now concerned Oenari priests gather to assist.

AMAKUS
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 Oh my... get them inside at once.

MARGUL
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 Wait... one of the transports is
 down thanks to the Human, Clark,
 but the other is coming for us...
 it's armed and there are hundreds
 of Kaldorians aboard.

AMAKUS
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 Barduk? What happened to Barduk?

MARGUL
 (Oenari; subtitled)
 The Human sacrificed her ship, and
 almost herself, to take out that
 transport. Barduk saved her from
 what would have been a fatal fall.

SILVER
 (telepathically)
 The Kaldorian transport... it's
 almost here.

AMAKUS

(Oenari; subtitled)

Everyone inside... at once. I want
a detachment, with Kaldorian
blasters, guarding those gates.

Standing on either side of the massive temple gates, a pair
of guards take action and open the great wooden doors.

As the Oenari begin to retreat through the open gates, a
detachment of ten armed OENARI GUARDS bravely move to
defensive positions away from the doors near the edge of the
mountain precipice.

REVERSE ANGLE as the last Kaldorian transport closes in on
the temple -- quickly at first but then slowing before coming
in broadside.

Blasters mounted on the front and side of the Kaldorian ship
take aim before opening fire on the Oenari guards.

OENARI GUARD #1 (O.C.)

(Oenari; subtitled)

Storm be with us -- open fire!

REVERSE ANGLE again as the Oenari guards open fire from their
positions on the mountain precipice.

Blaster fire from the Kaldorian ship rains down all around
the outmatched Oenari guards, felling the first of them
almost immediately.

OENARI GUARD #2

(pointing beyond the
attacking transport)

Look! It's Barduk, come to save us!

REVERSE ANGLE as in the distance, behind the transport,
Barduk and Clark seem to fly towards the temple, but then --
rather than engaging the transport -- they fly higher into
the sky before disappearing behind the mountain.

OENARI GUARD #1

No...

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Dorsey looks towards Ives station.

DORSEY

Sir, if I may. Going after the
Adjudicator is a terrible idea.

IVES

Tanaka... what will happen to the Kugelblitz singularity if we cut the power to all sixteen gamma ray lasers simultaneously?

TANAKA

At orbital speeds sir, about eight kilometers a second, the black hole's event horizon would rapidly expand and the singularity would almost instantaneously devour the Mobius I.

DORSEY

Commander, we're currently at nine point eight, eight kilometers per second.

TANAKA

That's not going to cut it sir.

IVES

How fast would we need to be going to safely drop containment while staying outside the event horizon?

TANAKA

Fifteen point two kilometers per second sir.

IVES

Dorsey. Can we hit that between here and the Adjudicator if we punch it?

DORSEY

We'll be cutting it close sir, but yeah. Affirmative.

IVES

Dorsey -- full power to those ion engines... give 'em everything you've got... Tanaka, punch it.

DORSEY

Yes sir.

TANAKA

You got it sir.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

ESTABLISHING SHOT of the massive Adjudicator as it emerges from the shadow of Kepler-442b into the fiery glow of its red dwarf parent star.

INT. KALDORIAN ADJUDICATOR - COMMAND DECK

Lord Malek stands before the tactical hologram of Kepler-442b in the center of the command deck.

A pair of his subordinates hover nearby as he watches the Kaldorian Interceptor chasing the Mobius I to a higher orbit around the planet.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Adjudicator to Interceptor... I
want that ship captured.

As Malek continues to watch the hologram, the ion engines on the Mobius I fully light up while it continues to evade the interceptor.

INTERCEPTOR PILOT (V.O.)

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Sir, although their technology is
clearly inferior to our own, we are
at a disadvantage over that
unstable propulsion drive they're
using.

As the conversation continues to play out, the hologram indicates that the Mobius I is re-orienting itself by several degrees... onto an intercept course with the Adjudicator.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Um, sir... the ship is now on an
intercept course... she's coming
straight at us.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
How foolish can they be!?
Interceptor... destroy that ship
before it gets here.

INTERCEPTOR PILOT (V.O.)

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Yes m'lord.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The Kaldorian Interceptor opens fire on the Mobius I with a barrage of blaster fire as it continues to lose ground in the pursuit.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Miller looks towards the commander, a concerned look on his face.

MILLER

Sir, the Kaldorian ship has opened fire on us.

IVES

Dorsey... try to evade that fire as best you can but stay on course for that Adjudicator.

DORSEY

You've got it Commander.

Suddenly, BLAM! The entire ship shakes violently as it takes a hit from the Interceptor.

INT. MOBIUS I - ENGINEERING DECK

Shar, attempting to install the last few pieces of hardware into the brains of the Red QUEEN is shaken violently from the blast -- dropping some of the hardware.

SHAR

Ives! What the hell is going on over there?

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The barrage of blaster fire continues as a massive blast hole on the mess hall segment of the Mobius I trails debris into space behind it.

MILLER

The mess hall is hit sir. It's lost pressure.

IVES (V.O.)

Seal it off Miller. Shar... hang on.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Miller glances towards the commander as the Adjudicator now looms larger on the main viewscreen.

MILLER

Mess hall is sealed off sir. We can't take another hit like that.

TANAKA

Thirteen kilometers a second sir.

IVES

This is gonna be real close. Shar... I need that Red QUEEN online. Miller... back in training... Shar explained to us that if the Red QUEEN were operating at too low a power, that the portal would collapse if anything tried to pass through it...

MILLER

That's right sir... with catastrophic consequences for whatever was entering it. That's basically what happened to our communications boom when the radiation hit us.

IVES

Once Shar get's that portal back online, can you rig it to run at low enough power to emulate that effect?

MILLER

I sure can sir...

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - DUSK

Blaster fire from the Kaldorian ship continues to rain down around the Oenari guards as another one takes a hit.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - LIGHTNING RAVAGED STORM CLOUDS - DUSK

Barduk and Clark soar high above the mountain as the transport assault plays out below them.

CLARK
Barduk, we need to help the
Oenari... those clouds.

BARDUK
(telepathically)
And help them we will...

As the pair close in on the ever closer storm clouds above, Clark's hair begins standing on end from a building electrical charge.

CLARK
(touching her hair with
one hand)
Oh my... what the hell.

Clark takes a deep inhale in through her nose as Barduk spirals up through the clouds.

CLARK (CONT'D)
I can smell... ozone. The
electricity... whoa!

Barduk, without warning, suddenly begins plummeting back down out of the storm as intensifying lightning dances amongst the clouds.

A startled Clark hangs on tight to the saddle with a white knuckled grip.

BARDUK
(telepathically)
Hang on tight little human.

As Barduk continues to dive, lightning begins scintillating all over his body.

CLARK
Oh my god... here we go...

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - DUSK

As the recently WOUNDED OENARI GUARD gets back into the fight, in a hail of sustained blaster fire, he takes a couple of weak shots at the transport before a jubilant look suddenly animates his face.

WOUNDED OENARI GUARD
(pointing emphatically)
(Oenari; subtitled)
Look! There! Barduk!

REVERSE ANGLE as Barduk comes barreling out of the sky towards the transport with electricity dancing all over him.

Clark holds on for dear life, hair as charged as ever.

A beat before a massive lightning bolt channels down from the heavens, through Barduk and straight through the Kaldorian transport.

BOOM! In a massive explosion of fire, debris and Kaldorian soldiers the transport crashes down onto the temple precipice before rolling off, down the mountainside.

The remaining Oenari guards erupt in cheers as Barduk and a sooty, blackened and positively charged Clark land amongst them in celebration.

EXT. SPACE, KEPLER-442B

The Interceptor continues its pursuit as the Mobius I rapidly closes the distance between itself and the enormous Adjudicator while under a sustained barrage of blaster fire.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

The side of the Adjudicator completely fills the main viewscreen as Dorsey glances towards Ives.

DORSEY

Fifteen point two kilometers a second.

Ives reaches out and touches the laminated picture of him and Beth tucked into his display -- running his thumb briefly over her image.

He then glances towards Tanaka.

IVES

Tanaka, kill the gamma ray lasers!
Dorsey, hit the brakes -- fore
thrusters hard!

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The sixteen lasers containing the Kugelblitz singularity all shut down simultaneously as the fore thrusters of the Mobius I fire hard in a braking maneuver.

The black hole singularity -- gravitational lensing blurring all light in its immediate vicinity -- rockets away from the Mobius I towards the imposing Adjudicator.

BLAM! The Mobius I takes another hard blaster hit from the now rapidly closing Kaldorian Interceptor.

INT. MOBIUS I - ENGINEERING DECK

As Shar places the last ELE conductor required to get the Red QUEEN operational again, the deck is suddenly and catastrophically blown open by a blaster bolt from the pursuing Interceptor.

With a second left to live, Shar slams the conductor into its place before being sucked out of the gaping hole and into the blackness of space.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Shaking from the blast to the engineering deck settles as a look of elation suddenly crosses Miller's face.

MILLER

Red QUEEN is online sir! Shar did it!

IVES

Fire up the Red QUEEN and bootlegger reverse... a hundred and eighty degrees.

MILLER

Firing up the Red QUEEN.

DORSEY

Hold on tight people!

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The side of the Adjudicator dominates the FRAME as in front of it, the Mobius I, on the spot, does a complete 180 degree turn to face the pursuing Kaldorian Interceptor.

The luminescent red ring running the inner circumference of the ship begins glowing brightly as red-white lightning arcs all across it in a two dimensional plane.

The entire inner void of the Mobius I transforms into the blazing Red QUEEN portal.

Blaster fire from the interceptor goes straight into the portal and vanishes completely.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT

The Mobius II nears completion in low Earth orbit as its own Red QUEEN suddenly fires to life.

A beat before a cascade of blaster fire begins flying through the portal.

CLOSE ON two ASTRONAUTS working on the hull of the Mobius II as they look first to the blaster fire raging through the portal and then to each other perplexedly.

ASTRONAUT #1
What the hell...

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

Ives watches the scene unfold on the viewscreen before him.

IVES
Full power to the ion engines!

DORSEY
Full power sir.

INT. KALDORIAN INTERCEPTOR - COCKPIT

The Kaldorian pilot and gunner both stare out in horror at the giant, hundred meter wide red portal, rushing towards them from outside of the cockpit canopy.

KALDORIAN GUNNER
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Pull up! Pull up!

KALDORIAN PILOT
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
I am! I am!

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

The crew of the Mobius I watches as the Kaldorian Interceptor vainly tries to avoid the blazing Red QUEEN portal now dominating the center of the ring-ship.

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

The Kaldorian ship plows into the Red QUEEN, causing the portal to sputter before ultimately failing a millisecond later -- severing the Interceptor in two.

The back half of the Interceptor flies through the gap in the Mobius I where the portal just was -- towards the Adjudicator -- immediately after the front half vanishes through the portal entirely.

EXT. SPACE - LOW EARTH ORBIT - CONTINUOUS

The Interceptor comes rocketing through the Red QUEEN's counterpart on the Mobius II before the portal suddenly blinks out, severing off the front half of the Kaldorian ship and sending it careening into low Earth orbit.

CLOSE ON the two astronauts no longer at work on the Mobius II as they watch the front half of the Interceptor fly through the failed portal. They glance at each other incredulously.

ASTRONAUT #2

Holy fuck... what the hell is that?

ASTRONAUT #1

Sweet baby Jesus.

INT. KALDORIAN ADJUDICATOR - COMMAND DECK

Lord Malek stands at the giant windows of the command deck with his two subordinates, watching the aftermath of the Kaldorian interceptor's encounter with the Mobius I.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
(calmly)

Launch all of our interceptors.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
All of them, my lord?

Malek turns towards his subordinate officer.

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)
I want that ship obliterated!
Launch every interceptor we have,
now!

The second subordinate, still staring through the command deck windows, points a finger outward as the Schwarzschild Kugelblitz black hole singularity screams towards the side of the Adjudicator in an angry halo of gravitational lensing.

SUBORDINATE #2

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

My Lord, part of that ship's engine
is coming right at us.

SUBORDINATE #1

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

That's not an engine!

MALEK

(Kaldorian; subtitled)

Evasive maneuvers! Evasive
Maneuvers!

EXT. SPACE - KEPLER-442B

Behind the Mobius I, the raging black hole plunges into the side of the four kilometer long Kaldorian Adjudicator.

Over the course of the next several seconds the entire Adjudicator collapses in on itself violently before blinking out of existence entirely -- completely consumed by the black hole singularity from the Mobius I's Schwarzschild Kugelblitz drive.

INT. MOBIUS I - FLIGHT DECK

The crew erupts in a brief moment of victory before Miller looks grimly towards the commander once again.

MILLER

Engineering was hit hard sir...
Shar is gone. We've lost Shar.

IVES

Seal it off... she got the Red
QUEEN working right as we took that
hit.

TANAKA

You did good Shar. Way to go.

DORSEY

Damn it!

EXT. KEPLER-442B - TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI - DUSK

Just as the Oenari begin to settle down from their victory over the Kaldorian transports, the injured Oenari guard points to the sky once again.

WOUNDED OENARI GUARD
(Oenari; subtitled)
Look! The Kaldorian ship... the
Adjudicator.

The Oenari gathering collectively turns to see what the guard is pointing to.

REVERSE ANGLE as the distant Kaldorian Adjudicator, high in the sky, catastrophically falls in on itself before vanishing completely a moment later.

The Oenari erupt into cheers once again.

CLOSE ON Clark as a perplexed look briefly crosses her face before being replaced by a knowing smile.

CLARK
(softly to herself)
The black hole... of course. I
Hope you're ok up there.

TIME CUT:

EXT. KEPLER-442B - CONCENTRATION CAMP - DAWN

Kaldorian guards gather Oenari prisoners into the courtyard of the concentration camp, ushering them towards long trenches being finished by other shovel wielding Oenari at blaster point.

A KALDORIAN CAPTAIN barks orders at his guards and the suffering Oenari prisoners.

KALDORIAN CAPTAIN
(Oenari; subtitled)
Everyone... line up along the
trenches...
(Kaldorian; subtitled)
Line them up along the trenches!

The Kaldorian guards enforce their Captain's orders with the butt ends of their blaster rifles.

Resigned to their fate, the majority of the Oenari captives line themselves up along the trenches, preparing for the inevitable end.

A beat before a dark shadow briefly shoots over the Kaldorian Captain.

An instant later, as the Captain looks up, a pair of mighty Aenami claws seize him by the shoulders, tearing him violently OUT OF FRAME.

The Captain's helmet and a single boot go clattering off across the courtyard before coming to a rest near the trenches.

As startled Kaldorian guards glance around, one of the Oenari trench diggers capitalizes on the confusion and slams his shovel straight into the face of an Oenari guard, catching him unaware and dropping him instantly.

Another guard trains his blaster on the rebelling Oenari prisoner but before he can pull the trigger, another pair of mighty Aenami claws tear him also, violently OUT OF FRAME.

The Guard's severed and still helmeted head rolls through the courtyard before falling into one of the freshly dug trenches.

As the remaining guards raise their blasters, looking to quickly finish their business, the sound of unfamiliar weapons -- assault rifles -- sound all around them.

A swarm of heavily armed Human and Oenari infantry come charging out of the forest and into the compound, mercilessly eliminating every single Kaldorian guard on the ground.

Barduk and Silver, diving back down into the camp, drop their grizzly remains, like bombs, into the last active Kaldorian guard tower, destroying half of it and killing its occupants in the process.

Oenari and Humans alike celebrate another victory as the concentration camp stands liberated from years of Kaldorian oppression.

TIME CUT:

EXT. KEPLER-442B - OERNARI VILLAGE - NIGHT

Hidden in the forests, one of the last Oenari villages is alive with celebrations as tribal music plays.

Oenari children play with the busted remains of Kaldorian armor while both Human and Oenari adults drink, smoke and bond together around great fires.

INT. KEPLER-442B, TEMPLE OF THE OERNARI

King Amakus celebrates in his grand hall, dancing and celebrating with the company of Adu, Margul, Benna.

Laughing and shouting, Oenari children and a pair of Aenami whelps, flee from Silver around the perimeter of the great chamber as he playfully shoots sparks their way in pursuit.

Shard, in her nearby niche, enjoys the festivities at a distance while tending to the rest of her newborn hatchlings with Barduk close at hand.

EXT. KEPLER-442B - OERNARI VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

On the outskirts of the village, the remaining crew of the Mobius I stand solemnly at a stone pile commemorating Shar's life while the victory celebrations play out in the distance behind them.

Several of her belongings can be seen interwoven through the pile.

IVES

You know, we were her only family. She was orphaned as a child -- her life was a real struggle but she managed to make so much of it.

CLARK

And she saved that family with her last act in this universe.

TANAKA

She saved this entire world by getting that portal operational when she did.

MILLER

Both worlds really -- she deserved so much better.

DORSEY

You will be missed my friend.

IVES

Let's say we honor her by celebrating her life with our newfound friends on our newfound home.

CLARK
That sounds like a great idea
Commander.

Arm in arm, the crew of the Mobius I make their way back
towards the celebration unfolding in the village behind them.

CAMERA TILTS to the starry sky above.

FADE OUT.

THE END