

The Hollow Sun

Jake Theriault

jacobjtheriault@gmail.com  
(321)2929706

BLACK-

MONTAGE: News reel footage. The end and beginning of each reel will overlap.

NEWSREEL #1

Ladies and gentlemen, you have just witness on live television the first successful test of light speed travel.

NEWSREEL #2

Less than a year after their ground breaking test of warp travel, Meyer Engineering has begun what some are calling "the largest harvesting operation ever".

NEWSREEL #3

Environmental groups are up in arms as Meyer Engineering continues to siphon gasses from the sun.

NEWSREEL #4

Top scientists and astrophysicists have confirmed that the sun is indeed beginning to destabilize. "We never thought this would happen" said CEO Edwin Meyer.

NEWSREEL #5

A radical religious sect known as "The Emissaries of Ra" is calling for answers from Meyer Engineering.

NEWSREEL #6

"Nothing can be done to stop the collapse" says leading physicist Henry Reynolds.

NEWSREEL #7

In a startling turn of events, a wormhole has developed in the wake of the sun's collapse.

NEWSREEL #8

Mercury is set to pass the event horizon in less than one hour. May God help us all.

INSERT: 15 YEARS LATER.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - EARLY DAY IN SPACE

The room is dark except for small traces of light coming in through a small window. Outside the window can be seen a very dark Venus. The room is comprised of just two bunks, each of which appears to have a resident. After a few moments, there is a frantic knock on the door.

ANDERSON (VOICE)

Wake up, boys - we've got company.

As the crew members stir from their bunks, Captain ARIEL ANDERSON is heard continuing down the hall, repeating the order at each door. The voice of MAX, the pilot, can be heard over the intercom.

MAX (VOICE)

Confirmation of Emissary ships,  
Captain.

THADDEUS and JONATHAN (both engineers) stir from their bunks more quickly as the understanding of the reason behind their rude awakening sinks in. They run out into the hall.

INT. SHIP HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Thaddeus closes the door to their room as Jonathan activates one of the hall's intercom panels.

JONATHAN

How far out from the Pass are we,  
Cap?

ANDERSON (VOICE)

Still 800 kilometers out. I need  
you two in the engine room now.  
Give me everything you can.

INT. BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

MAX

(speaking to the ship)

Come on, baby, you can do it.

Anderson gets on the intercom again.

ANDERSON

Catherine, I needed the artillery  
online yesterday.

INT. SHIP HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Thaddeus and Jonathan are running down the hall towards the engine room.

THADDEUS

Let's hope the pass isn't too unstable this time.

JONATHAN

Last time we were planetside, I heard they had made a lot of progress in maintaining the passage.

THADDEUS

Last time we were planetside I heard a freighter got ripped apart before they even got within 100 kilometers.

JONATHAN

Well, we've got a little less mass than a freighter.

A female crew member, JOAN (the communications officer and Max's younger sister), runs past them.

JOAN

Better hurry up, fellas. You don't want to miss the show, do you?

THADDEUS

Right, the same show it always is.

JONATHAN

I still think it's pretty cool.

THADDEUS

Yeah, I always find shirking death super cool.

They pass through another door and enter the engine room.

INT. BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Joan runs into the bridge. Explosions are heard outside as their pursuers begin to fire upon the *Hollow Sun*.

MAX

Glad you could make it, Sleeping Beauty.

(CONTINUED)

JOAN

Well you know I couldn't come up here without getting a little dolled up.

ANDERSON

Scanners show they've definitely got more cruisers patrolling the Pass since last time we came through.

MAX

That'll hopefully be in our favor.

JOAN

I mean, if this really is the time the ship gets taken, I at least want to be a good looking corpse.

The voice of CATHERINE (the munition's expert and gunner) comes over the intercom.

CATHERINE (VOICE)

Artillery cannons ready when you are, Cap.

ANDERSON

(to the intercom)

If they get close enough, you light them up.

MAX

We're within comms range now.

ANDERSON

Great. Joan, open a new channel, please.

Joan turns on a separate intercom.

ANDERSON

(into the comms)

Venus station, this is intercept frigate *Hollow Sun* requesting immediate access through the Pass. You know I'd love to follow the normal procedure, but we've got a pair of Emissary ships on our tail.

VENUS COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)

Copy that, *Hollow Sun*, please stand by.

(CONTINUED)

MAX  
Emissary ships gaining, Cap.

VENUS COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)  
*Hollow Sun*, our cruisers confirm  
the presence of two Emissary  
vessels. Intercept in progress.

MAX  
200 kilometers from the event  
horizon.

ANDERSON  
(into ship's intercom)  
Everybody buckle up, this one's  
going to be a little bumpy.

Anderson, Max, and Joan notice one of the Venus Cruisers  
flying their direction. Several bursts of laser fire fly  
past the *Hollow Sun*. The radar soon shows no signs of the  
Emissary ships.

VENUS COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)  
*Hollow Sun*, you are clear to access  
the Pass. All reports indicate the  
other side should be clear for you.

MAX  
"Should" being the operative word.

ANDERSON  
Copy that, Venus. Beginning our  
final approach now.

VENUS COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)  
Fly safe, *Hollow Sun*. Mercury will  
confirm signal recovery upon  
arrival.

Joan shuts off communication with the Venus Station.

MAX  
50 kilometers to comms blackout.

ANDERSON  
(into intercom)  
Alright everyone, you know the  
drill. Catherine, let's keep our  
artillery online just in case  
there's trouble on the other side.

Anderson takes a seat behind Joan and Max, as all three of  
them strap into their seats. The ship begins to rattle as  
the light outside the windows begins to fade.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - SAME TIME.

Max's voice is heard over the intercom.

MAX (VOICE)  
15 kilometers.

Jonathan and Thaddeus jump into their seats and strap in. A chess set can be seen in the corner. The pieces shake along with the ship, but none of them have fallen over yet.

JONATHAN  
I wish we had some windows back  
here.

One large tremor jolts the ship. Several chess pieces fall over.

MAX (VOICE)  
We passed the event horizon.

THADDEUS  
We really need to get some velcro  
or something for that thing.

ANDERSON (VOICE)  
15 seconds until we hit the pass.

EXT. *HOLLOW SUN* - SAME TIME.

The camera pulls away to reveal that 'the Pass' is a large black hole where our sun used to be. The *Hollow Sun* begins to gain more speed as the black hole draws her in. As she approaches the opening, we can begin to see a more colorful world on the other side, in stark contrast to the now dark Milky Way. She passes through the opening and is instantly in the other galaxy. The camera pans around to show some sweeping panoramas of the colorful new world. The planet Mercury can be seen in close proximity to this side of the Pass.

INT. BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

ANDERSON  
You never really get used to the  
view, do you?

Anderson, Joan, and Max are all looking out at the new environment. The comms light up suddenly.

(CONTINUED)

MERCURY COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)  
*Hollow Sun*, this is Mercury Station  
Five. Please verify all your  
systems are functioning properly.

ANDERSON  
Copy, Mercury Station. All our  
systems are green.

Max looks out the window and then at the radar.

MAX  
Scanner's clear too.

ANDERSON  
Mercury, what's the most recent  
report on the route to the Achilles  
system?

MERCURY COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)  
One moment, *Hollow Sun*. Please  
stand by.

All warp paths to Achilles are  
open, Captain. Fly safe.

ANDERSON  
Will do, Mercury. Thanks for the  
update. Max, set a course for  
Achilles.

MAX  
One step ahead of you, Cap. Looks  
like the hyperdrive's a little low  
on fuel though.

ANDERSON  
Do we have enough to make the jump?

MAX  
We have plenty for that, we'll just  
need the pick up some more while  
we're there.

Anderson gets on the intercom.

ANDERSON  
Boys, go check in the cargo bay to  
see if we have any spare warp cores  
lying around.

(CONTINUED)



THADDEUS (VOICE)  
Will do.

ANDERSON  
And make sure you pick things up  
and look underneath them.

THADDEUS (VOICE)  
Alright, Mom.

JONATHAN (VOICE)  
(to Thaddeus)  
Ask her if we have any velcro.

Anderson switches the intercom off. Max preps the ship for  
warp. Catherine enters the bridge.

ANDERSON  
Joan, go give them a hand please.

JOAN  
Guess I'll show the men how it's  
done.

Joan leaves the bridge.

CATHERINE  
You going to be all right, Ariel?

ANDERSON  
I'm fine. I'll be better once we  
make the pick up. How's the warp  
coming?

MAX  
Shutting down auxiliary boosters.  
Switching all power to the  
hyperdrive.

ANDERSON  
(in to comms)  
Joan, how're we looking on  
additional cores?

JOAN (VOICE)  
We've got one full box down here,  
and then a couple loose ones strewn  
about.

MAX  
That'll be fine, Joan. Thanks for  
looking.

Anderson switches off the comms.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Ready when you are, Cap.

ANDERSON

Punch it.

The *Hollow Sun* warps off into the distance.

INT. GALLEY - MID-WARP.

Max, Thaddeus, Jonathan, and Catherine are sitting around the table in the galley. They are all eating an assortment of foods, Max is periodically checking his watch.

THADDEUS

It's a good thing *Hollow Sun* is so fast. If we ever get in a firefight, our cannons aren't going to cut it.

JONATHAN

At least we have cannons.

THADDEUS

But why have cannons when we could have railguns?

CATHERINE

Again with the railguns.

THADDEUS

All I'm saying is that our defenses are woefully behind the times.

MAX

Give up on the railguns, Thaddeus. Ariel's a traditionalist. She'll hang a disco ball in the bridge before she gives up the cannons.

Anderson walks in.

ANDERSON

How much further, Max?

Max looks at his watch again.

MAX

Should be another 10 minutes.

ANDERSON sits and serves herself some of the food.

(CONTINUED)

JONATHAN  
How're you doing, Cap?

ANDERSON  
Fine for now. You all really don't  
need to be worrying so much about  
me.

JOAN walks in and lugs a heavy box of warp cores onto the  
table.

JOAN  
What's fine?

ANDERSON  
Oh, nothing. These gentlemen are  
making a bigger deal out of it than  
it needs to be.

CATHERINE  
You boys let her carry that box in  
here all by herself?

Awkward silence from the men.

JONATHAN  
I for one thought she was napping.

CATHERINE  
When is Edward expecting us?

ANDERSON  
He said he'd have the station ready  
at 15:00.

MAX  
(checking his watch)  
We should be right on schedule  
then.

THADDEUS  
Captain, I've got a proposition for  
you.

ANDERSON  
We're not getting railguns, Thad.

Jonathan pulls out his wallet and gives Max five dollars.

CATHERINE  
What'd we miss?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

It's been less than a week since Thaddeus asked the Cap about new railguns.

ANDERSON

Okay everybody, why don't we start doing final systems checks before we leave warp?

The crew begins to exit the galley to their proper positions on the ship. Joan pulls Catherine aside.

JOAN

Cat, what's fine with the captain?

CATHERINE

It's no big deal. Ariel just has a lot on her mind.

They leave the galley as well.

INT. ACHILLES STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME

The station overseer, EDWARD ANDERSON, is seen looking out into the vast reaches of space through the massive windows of the station's bridge. His eyes gaze intently out into the abyss. An OFFICER walks in.

OFFICER

You're wanted in the communications bay, sir.

EDWARD

In a minute.

OFFICER

It didn't seem like a request.

EDWARD

When did she say she'd be arriving?

OFFICER

Should be any minute, sir. We need to go now.

EDWARD

Make sure the hanger is prepped. I want to get them in and out as quick as we can. (to himself) If we can.

They leave towards the communications bay.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER.

Anderson, Max, and Joan are on the bridge.

MAX

Coming out of warp in 3 - 2 - 1.

The *Hollow Sun* comes out of warp several kilometers from the Achilles Station.

MAX

There she is ladies, the Achilles Station.

Anderson turns on the intercom.

ANDERSON

Achilles Station, this is intercept frigate *Hollow Sun* requesting permission to land.

Intercom is silent.

ANDERSON

Achilles Station, this is intercept frigate *Hollow Sun*. Do you copy?

A few more moments of silence.

ACHILLES COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)

We copy you, *Hollow Sun*. Sorry about that delay. We have you clear for landing in Hanger Bay 2.

MAX

Roger that, Achilles. Initiating docking sequence now.

He turns off the intercom.

ANDERSON

Keep her steady, Max. Joan, let's grab Cat and the boys and head down to the cargo bay.

EXT. ACHILLES STATION - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* flies slow and steady into the superstructure of the station.

INT. HANGER - MOMENTS AFTER

The *Hollow Sun* slowly touches down within the hanger bay. Edward and several of the station's crew members are standing on the hanger floor. The *Hollow Sun*'s cargo bay doors open - Anderson, Joan, Catherine, Jonathan, and Thaddeus disembark. They approach Edward and the station crew. Edward appears anxious but is obviously trying to hide it.

EDWARD

It's good to see you again, Ariel.

ANDERSON

You too, Ed. I'm glad to see you've kept this place up and running for so long.

EDWARD

Well, all those lists and charts you always made helped a lot.

ANDERSON

I'm glad.

Max disembarks out of the ship and joins up with everybody.

MAX

Another lovely landing.

ANDERSON

I think you've met most of the crew-

Catherine, Jonathan, and Thaddeus wave.

JONATHAN

Hey, Ed.

ANDERSON

- but we've got a couple new faces. Edward, this is Max, my new pilot, and his sister Joan, our new communications officer.

Edward shakes hands with Max and Joan.

EDWARD

Edward Anderson, pleased to meet the both of you. Welcome to the Achilles Station.

(CONTINUED)

JOAN

Anderson? Are you and the Captain  
brother and sister too?

ANDERSON

Not quite. Just old friends.

Joan notices the wedding band on Edward's hand but doesn't  
say anything.

ANDERSON

Max, you have the list of supplies  
we need, yes?

Max nods.

EDWARD

I'm sure my men can take care of  
whatever you need.

Edwards motions for several of his crew members to help out  
Max.

EDWARD

(to Anderson)

Why don't you and the rest of your  
crew join me upstairs so we figure  
out accommodations for the night?

ANDERSON

Max, you'll be alright down here?

MAX

Me and these fine gentlemen will  
have everything ship-shape in no  
time.

Edward motions to the hall.

EDWARD

Shall we?

Everyone but Max and the station crew depart from the hanger  
as Max and the crew begin sorting through supplies.

INT. STATION ELEVATOR - A FEW MINUTES LATER.

Edward, Anderson, Catherine, Joan, Jonathan, and Thaddeus  
are all packed in to the station elevator as it ascends  
towards the guest accommodations.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

So how was the flight over?

ANDERSON

We ran into a pair of Emissary ships passing through the Kuiper belt.

EDWARD

Really?

JONATHAN

They're getting braver. They chased us all the way to the Pass. A Navy cruiser had to get them off our tail.

ANDERSON

How's the Emissary activity look around here?

EDWARD

Normally it's pretty quiet, but we've had our fair share of sightings.

THADDEUS

Any recently?

EDWARD

Last encounter was just a couple of days ago.

There is a soft \*ding\* noise, and Edward pulls a small screen out of his jacket. He casually tries to hide the message on the screen from everyone else. Joan notices and attempts to see what it says, but he puts it away before she can.

CATHERINE

Well, you're still here so it couldn't have been that bad.

EDWARD

(distracted)

Hmm? Oh, yes. There wasn't much incident.

ANDERSON

I'm glad.

(CONTINUED)



EDWARD

It's a little worrying. They used to only stay in the systems near the Pass, but now they're out here.

The elevator reaches it's destination.

INT. LOBBY OF GUEST QUARTERS - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER.

Anderson, Jonathan, Thaddeus, Joan, and Catherine disembark from the station elevator into the lobby of the station's guest accommodations. The lobby is a half circle with a hall down the center of the arc. There are several doors on the walls of the half circle with more down the hall. Edward stays in the elevator.

EDWARD

I'll let you all settle down for the night. If you need anything you can reach me on the intercom. We typically serve breakfast at 7 in the galley on C-deck.

THADDEUS

Where's C-deck?

JONATHAN

Below D-deck.

EDWARD

Just follow the signs. See you all in the morning.

ANDERSON

Goodnight, Ed.

Edward smiles and closes the elevator doors.

THADDEUS

Well, I don't know about you, but I want a room with a window.

Thaddeus starts looking into each of the rooms until he finds one with a window. He runs into that room.

JONATHAN

I'll make sure he doesn't hit his head jumping on the bed.

Jonathan walks to go into his and Thaddeus' room.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON  
(to Jonathan)  
Don't stay up too late, I want us  
to get an early start.

JONATHAN  
You got it, Cap.

Jonathan closes the door. Catherine finds a room for herself.

CATHERINE  
(to Anderson and Joan)  
Goodnight, you two.

JOAN  
'Night, Cat.

Anderson begins to go to a room but notices Joan staying in the lobby.

ANDERSON  
Going to wait up for Max?

JOAN  
Oh - no, I just spaced out for a  
second.

ANDERSON  
Well, if you need anything I'll be  
in here.

JOAN  
Do you trust Edward?

ANDERSON  
Of course I do, why?

JOAN  
I don't know, something just felt  
weird when we were introduced - and  
on the elevator.

ANDERSON  
There's no man I trust more than  
Edward. Now get some rest, we've  
got a big day ahead of us.

Anderson closes the door to her room. Joan goes to her room as well.

INT. ANDERSON'S ROOM - SAME TIME.

Anderson takes off her jacket to reveal that on the shoulder of her shirt is a patch reading "Meyer Engineering". She falls down on to the bed and stares up at the ceiling. She reaches down into her pocket and pulls out a wedding ring. She looks at it forlornly before setting it on the bedside table and turning out the light.

INT. HANGER - SAME TIME.

Max and the station crew are loading crates of supplies onto the *Hollow Sun*. Max checks his list.

MAX

That takes care of munitions. Let's  
take a look at food shall we?

A crew member gestures to a door on one side of the hanger. They all walk to it, Max in the lead. Max opens the door, but is surprised to find that it is just a cleaning closet. He turns around only to see a large fist flying towards his face.

INT. MAX AND JOAN'S ROOM - MINUTES LATER.

Joan is in pajamas sitting on one of the two beds in the guest room. She is reading a book, but is obviously not invested in it because she looks back at the door every so often. After a while she gets up, walks to the closet, throws on her jacket, and goes out into the lobby.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE HANGER - MINUTES LATER

Joan gets off the elevator and walks around the corner towards the hanger. She ducks back around the corner when she sees several robed men dragging Max's limp body down a different hallway.

JOAN

(to herself)

Max -

She sees another robed man walk through the hanger with Edward. This man has his hood up and is obviously the leader.

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

Where are their rooms?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

You're making a mistake.

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

We've waited a long time for this, Overseer. I need you to answer the question.

EDWARD

They're upstairs.

He points in Joan's direction. She hides herself again, hoping he didn't see her.

EDWARD

The elevator down that hall.

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

Good. I'm certain you and your men won't interfere.

Joan hears footsteps heading away from her.

EDWARD

Where are you going?

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

I need to ready my men. You best do the same. Call them to the officers' quarters and make sure they stay there.

Edward is silent.

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

I need you to follow me, Overseer. We have work to do.

INT. OFFICERS' QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER.

An unconscious Max is carried into the officers' quarters by several men in robes - members of a cult known as the Emissaries of Ra. These are the same men who posed as the station's crew while in the hanger. Each Emissary is also wearing a necklace with a sun pendant. The real station crew is also filed into the room, all in handcuffs. The leader of the Emissaries (FATHER SOLOMON, who was the Mysterious Figure) walks in, followed closely by a very anxious Edward.

(CONTINUED)

SOLOMON  
(to the Emissaries)  
Gentlemen, the time has come. She's  
here.

INT. LOBBY OF GUEST QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER.

The lights are off in the lobby. The elevator doors open up as several Emissaries walk into the lobby.

INT. ANDERSON'S ROOM - SAME TIME.

Anderson is sound asleep. The sound of a door opening is heard. Suddenly the lights turn on, and Anderson awakes to find her bed surrounded by the Emissaries. Solomon stands at the foot of her bed.

SOLOMON  
Hello, Ariel.

INT. OFFICERS' QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER.

Max is now conscious again, talking in hushed tones with the other crew members of the station. The doors open and Anderson, Catherine, Jonathan, and Thaddeus are brought in. They are thrown to the ground with the others. Solomon and Edward stand at the door. Solomon nods to one of the Emissaries, who immediately shackles Edward and throws him in with the others.

SOLOMON  
Thank you for your cooperation,  
Overseer.

All the Emissaries leave.

JONATHAN  
Is it just me, or did this place  
seem a whole lot more hospitable  
before I went to bed?

Anderson glares at Edward. He avoids making eye contact. There is an uncomfortable silence for quite some time.

EDWARD  
I had no choice.

ANDERSON  
Don't lie to me.

More uncomfortable silence.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

Why are there Emissaries on your station, Ed?

More silence.

ANDERSON

Edward.

EDWARD

I don't know. They showed up about a day before you did.

ANDERSON

Right. You had an 'encounter' a couple days ago. Maybe you could've mentioned that they never left after you 'encountered' them.

EDWARD

I couldn't.

ANDERSON

Don't give me that.

More silence.

ANDERSON

Why are they here? And why did one of them know my name?

EDWARD

I don't know. Somehow he knew you'd be here, and he said he'd wait as long as he needed to for you to arrive.

ANDERSON

Why?

Uncomfortable pause.

EDWARD

It's something to do with Meyer. He's under the impression that someone on your crew worked for Meyer before the Collapse. I told him he was wrong but he wouldn't listen to me. He got this look in his eye-

( CONTINUED )

JONATHAN

Yeah, I've tended to notice people  
can get a mite pissy if you destroy  
their deity.

CATHERINE

Sun worshiping piles of filth is  
what these lunatics are.

EDWARD

He's got the whole civilian wing  
locked down, he used them as  
collateral to make sure I kept you  
on the station.

There was nothing I could do.

They all sit in momentary silence together.

MAX

Where's Joan?

INT. HALL OUTSIDE OFFICERS' QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER.

Joan peeks around the corner and sees two of the larger  
Emissaries guarding the door to the officers' quarters. She  
looks around for a weapon, but before she can finish looking  
she hears voices coming from down the hall. She ducks behind  
a plant.

SOLOMON

- and make sure that no one  
disturbs us once I have her on the  
bridge.

MARCUS

As you wish, Father.

Solomon and his Followers walk past Joan and stop at the  
door to the officers' quarters.

INT. OFFICERS' QUARTERS - SAME TIME.

The doors open. Father Solomon and several Emissaries stand  
in the doorway. Solomon motions towards Anderson and Edward.  
Four of the Emissaries walk into the room, lift the selected  
prisoners to their feet, and march them out of the room.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE OFFICERS' QUARTERS - SAME TIME.

Solomon grins as Anderson and Edward are brought into the hall.

ANDERSON

I don't know who you are, but  
you'll have to answer for this.

SOLOMON

Answers are the only thing I want,  
Captain Anderson.

The Emissaries march Anderson and Edward down the hall and into the elevator. Solomon follows close behind. After the elevator doors close, Joan gets up from her hiding place. She watches the monitor of the elevator as it displays which floors the elevator is passing. It finally stops, and the display reads "DECK A - BRIDGE".

INT. STATION BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER.

The doors to the elevator open, Solomon leads the group out as the Emissaries march Anderson and Edward onto the bridge. Solomon stares out the massive windows. He addresses the Emissaries.

SOLOMON

Leave us.

The other Emissaries leave. Only Solomon, Anderson, and Edward remain in the room.

SOLOMON

What is the sun, Captain Anderson?

ANDERSON

I don't understand the question.

SOLOMON

I was clear enough.

ANDERSON

Excuse me. What I meant was, I  
don't care enough to answer a  
child's quiz question.

Solomon turns to her.

SOLOMON

The sun is life, Captain Anderson.

(CONTINUED)



ANDERSON

Oh, you meant what is the sun  
figuratively.

SOLOMON

Sarcasm can only hide your fear for  
a short time, Captain.

ANDERSON

I'm not afraid of you.

SOLOMON

Oh, now now, my daughter, why must  
we resort to such trivial lies?  
Where will that get you?

Anderson doesn't know how to respond to this.

EDWARD

She hasn't done anything.

SOLOMON

Hasn't she?

ANDERSON

Look, you can play this  
high-and-mighty routine all you  
want, but when it comes down to it,  
you're the one killing people. I  
know what you and your men are. Our  
ship is supposed to be carrying  
food and medical supplies to  
planets you've blockaded.

SOLOMON

Trying to atone for your sins.  
That's good, Captain, but not good  
enough. Now, as I was saying - the  
sun *is* life. It was not I who took  
the first life, Ariel. You did that  
all on your own.

ANDERSON

The sun isn't life. It's a giant  
collection of gas.

Solomon slaps her across the face.

SOLOMON

I will not hear that blasphemy  
again.

Anderson lifts her head back up.

( CONTINUED )

ANDERSON

I don't believe we've had the  
pleasure.

SOLOMON

All in due time, Captain. All in  
due time.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Joan turns quickly around a corner and notices a map of the  
station displayed on the wall. She runs up to it and scans  
her eyes across the map.

JOAN

(to herself, reading the map)  
Hanger... hanger. Where was the  
hanger?

She keeps looking.

JOAN

(still to herself, still  
reading out loud)  
Medical bay, officers' quarters,  
observation deck - ah, there you  
are, hanger bay.

Double checks the location of the hanger on the map, then  
looks down the hall, confirming that she is traveling in the  
right direction. She hears voices coming from behind her,  
and she quickly darts in the direction of the hanger. Two  
Emissaries MARCUS and BRANDT come around the corner.

MARCUS

You're sure you heard something?

Brandt kneels down in front of the map and sees the faintest  
outline of footprints on the cold steel floor.

BRANDT

Positive.

MARCUS

We pulled everyone out of those  
beds.

BRANDT

Obviously not, my friend. Let's see  
where this little flea leads us,  
shall we?

They head down the hall in the same direction as Joan.

INT. OFFICERS' QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER.

Catherine, Jonathan, Thaddeus, Max, and the station's crew are all still trapped in the officers' quarters.

MAX

Just so we're clear, she wasn't  
with all of you when you came down  
here?

CATHERINE

No. She wasn't with us.

JONATHAN

Where could she have gone?

OFFICER

It's a big station.

MAX

I can't leave her out there.

THADDEUS

None of us want to leave her out  
there, but getting her back is  
easier said than done, pal.

Max gets up and walks to the door and inspects a panel on  
the wall next to it.

MAX

How does this open?

OFFICER

Five digit key code.

MAX

Well what's the code?

OFFICER

Reset by the Emissaries.

JONATHAN

Figures.

MAX

Could we hack it?

OFFICER

Not unless any of you know how.

The *Hollow Sun's* crew look around at each other, but all are  
silent.

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER  
I'll take that as a 'no'.

Max looks around the room some more. He notices some vents up near the ceiling.

MAX  
What're these for?

OFFICER  
Central air and ventilation for the whole station.

Max stares at the vent.

MAX  
Somebody help me get these cuffs off.

INT. HANGER - SAME TIME.

Joan has crept her way down to the hanger, which is all but deserted. She sneaks her way on to the *Hollow Sun*.

INT. *HOLLOW SUN* CARGO BAY - SAME TIME.

Joan sneaks over to a large set of crates at the back of the cargo bay, each of which say "For delivery to: Catherine Adams". She opens each of the crates, all of which contain a variety of guns and explosives. She grabs a rifle and some ammunition from one of the boxes and begins to leave, but she is stopped when she hears footsteps entering the cargo bay. She ducks behind some other boxes.

MARCUS  
You know, we really should just kill them all now.

BRANDT  
It's not about mindless death. It's about sending a message. That's why the Father is so selective.

MARCUS  
But taking prisoners like this and then only killing a few of them leaves far too many loose ends.

BRANDT  
I agree. I don't like loose ends any more than you do, but it needs to be done this way.

(CONTINUED)

Marcus notices the open boxes.

MARCUS  
Look over there.

Joan hears their footsteps move towards the boxes.

BRANDT  
Go tell the Father. Someone is  
without a doubt loose on the  
station.

She hears one pair of footsteps leave. She hears Brandt rummage through a box and then close it.

BRANDT  
I know you're in here.

Joan grips her rifle more tightly as she hears Brandt walking around and knocking boxes over. She peers around the corner and sees that he is on the other side of the cargo bay. He is also carrying a pistol that he pulled out of the box.

BRANDT  
Don't mistakenly martyr yourself,  
friend. We're only here for the  
Captain.

She loads a round into the rifle as quietly as she can.

BRANDT  
Don't sacrifice yourself for a  
murderer. Scum like her aren't  
worth it.

Joan jumps out from behind the crate and runs towards Brandt. She shoots him in the knee and he crumples to the ground screaming. She clubs him over the head with the butt of the gun to silence him. She runs to the door of the cargo bay to see if anyone heard the screams, but no one is there. She dumps Brandt's body into the one of the boxes and slams the lid shut.

INT. OFFICERS' QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER.

Max, Catherine, and the station Officer have found a way to work off their handcuffs, and while the rest of the crew finishes removing their cuffs, Max, Catherine, and the Officer look up at the vent.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

What's the best way to do this?

OFFICER

Well, the simple way would be to just remove the screws and pull it off.

MAX

Anybody have a screwdriver?

CATHERINE

Here, use this.

Catherine takes off her dog tags and hands them to Max.

MAX

Give me a boost.

The Officer boosts Max up to the vent. Max takes the dog tag and begins the process of loosening the screws that are holding the grate on the vent. He pulls out one screw and drops it into Catherine's hand.

MAX

There's one.

The rest of the crew are now completely uncuffed. Thaddeus has walks over to the door and inspects the control panel next to it. He hears Max working behind him.

MAX

And there's two.

As Thaddeus looks at the control panel, he hears the elevator open down the hall.

THADDEUS

Someone's coming!

Everyone quickly sits down with their hands behind their backs as the doors to the officers' quarters open. Marcus is followed closely by two other Emissaries.

MARCUS

Is this everyone who was up here before?

EMISSARY GUARD

Everyone but the Captain and the Overseer.

(CONTINUED)

MARCUS

Then we must alert the Father,  
someone is loose in the station.

The Emissaries leave. Max quickly gets back to work on the vent. He is obviously agitated.

CATHERINE

She'll be okay, Max. We don't even  
know if it was her they were  
talking about.

MAX

Three.

CATHERINE

Max -

MAX

Of course it was her they were  
talking about. Who else could it  
have been?

CATHERINE

They're not going to find her.  
She's a smart girl.

MAX

Four.

Max pulls off the grate and it slams to the floor.

JONATHAN

Let's try not to let the whole  
station know we're escaping.

Max shoots him a look.

MAX

You all need to go find the  
Captain, I'm going to find my  
sister.

CATHERINE

Well I'm going with you then.

THADDEUS

Me and Jon can handle Ed and the  
Cap.

JONATHAN

So long as we don't run into too  
much trouble.

(CONTINUED)

Max climbs up into the vent.

CATHERINE  
(to the Officer)  
You gentlemen have a weapon's cache  
somewhere?

OFFICER  
The armory on E-deck, just below  
us.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Joan walks past a door marked "Armory" and into a stairwell.

INT. STATION STAIRWELL - SAME TIME.

Joan looks at another map next to the door in the stairwell.  
She sees that the bridge is all the way at the top of the  
stairwell.

JOAN  
(to herself)  
Well, Joan, Max did say you needed  
to exercise more.

She begins jogging up the stairs, rifle at the ready.

INT. ACHILLES STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Solomon, Anderson, and Edward are still on the bridge.

ANDERSON  
You still haven't explained  
yourself, Emissary.

SOLOMON  
I'm not the one who needs to  
explain, Captain. That's your  
responsibility.

ANDERSON  
A name at least?

Solomon pauses.

SOLOMON  
I was ordained Father Solomon  
Thomas. You may address me as such.

(CONTINUED)



ANDERSON

Ooo - 'ordained'. You must be exceptionally special, Father.

SOLOMON

It would behoove you to show some humility, Captain. It may serve you later.

The door to the bridge opens abruptly. Marcus walks in and whispers in Solomon's ear. Solomon takes a moment to consider this news.

SOLOMON

Bring me one of the prisoners.

Marcus leaves.

SOLOMON

Captain, I've been informed that someone, presumably a member of your crew, is playing cat and mouse somewhere on this station. Now, I'm sure you know both who it is and where they are, and if you don't divulge said information, I will kill your crew - and quite possibly some of the Overseer's - one by one, until you give up this poor soul's whereabouts.

ANDERSON

I can't possibly know who's causing you trouble. It can't be one of my crew, you brought us all down in a group. My pilot was the only one not with us.

EDWARD

Maybe someone escaped the civilian quarters. You should check the-

SOLOMON

No, it's one of hers. No one else would be brave enough to venture into this station alone.

ANDERSON

I'll be sure to pass that compliment along to my crew. And I suggest you rethink your paranoia.

(CONTINUED)

SOLOMON

Paranoia, my child, is why we'll be alive long after you're dead. My men are bringing a member of your crew up here as we speak. If you don't want to see their blood wasted on this polished floor, you'd best begin talking.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE GALLEY - SAME TIME.

Max kicks a vent grate off of the wall and emerges from the ventilation system. He is followed by Catherine, Jonathan, Thaddeus, and the Officer.

MAX

Where are we?

OFFICER

Just outside the galley. C-deck.

THADDEUS

(to Jonathan)

Below D-deck.

CATHERINE

Where'd they take the Captain?

OFFICER

I'd assume to the bridge. That's where we all were before they forced us downstairs.

JONATHAN

How do we get there?

Several other station crew members emerge from the vent.

OFFICER

Normally you'd use an I.D. badge and just access the elevator, but like I said, the Emissaries had us reset the whole system when they got here. Key codes, turrets, everything.

THADDEUS

So where then?

OFFICER

There are miscellaneous stair wells across the station, we'll use the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER (cont'd)  
one down this way to get to the  
armory on E-deck.

CATHERINE  
We're going to find Joan.

MAX  
And get to her before the  
Emissaries do.

JONATHAN  
Meet up at the bridge when you find  
her.

Max and Catherine begin to go down the hall.

THADDEUS  
(to Max and Catherine)  
Hey - be safe, you two.

Jonathan, Thaddeus, and the Officer go towards the  
stairwell. Several other crew members follow them. Max and  
Catherine go the other direction.

INT. OFFICERS' QUARTERS - SAME TIME.

Marcus opens the door to the officers' quarters, and finds  
no prisoners inside. He runs down the hall yelling  
frantically.

INT. ACHILLES STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Solomon is pacing in front of the window.

SOLOMON  
I'm not a patient man, Captain.  
Tell me who's on the ship. I'd so  
hate to be interrupted when I'm  
torturing you.

EDWARD  
You're going to do what?

SOLOMON  
Silence, Overseer this is none of  
your concern.

EDWARD  
No, I think it is. Just who do you  
think-

(CONTINUED)

Solomon reaches out and grabs Edward by the throat.

SOLOMON  
(to Anderson)  
Or perhaps we need not even wait  
for a prisoner to be brought up  
here. Tell me who is scurrying  
about this station, and your dear  
Overseer might not drift into  
eternal blackness.

The door to the bridge opens abruptly and Marcus rushes in,  
followed closely by the Emissary Guard.

MARCUS  
They're gone! All of them, they're  
gone!

Solomon lets go of Edward, who gasps for breath.

SOLOMON  
Is their ship still in the hanger?

MARCUS  
Yes, Father.

SOLOMON  
Then they're still on board. Seal  
the hanger and slaughter them all.

Marcus leaves. Solomon gestures to the Emissary Guard.

SOLOMON  
(to the Guard)  
Kill him when he least expects it.

The Emissary Guard leaves and Solomon closes the door.

SOLOMON  
Well, Captain, I hope there was  
nothing you needed to tell your  
crew or that rat running about the  
station, because you shall never  
see them again.

ANDERSON  
Stop playing games, old man. My  
crew had nothing to do with this.  
This is between you and me,  
remember? I'm the one you want.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

Look - whatever you think Ariel has done, you're obviously mistaken.

SOLOMON

No, Overseer, it's you who are mistaken.

Solomon begins to pull down the top of his robe to expose his bare torso. He wraps the sleeves of the robe around his waist as he walks to a table by the window.

EDWARD

Ariel was an engineer for the Naval Academy before we met, she never worked for Meyer.

SOLOMON

And you believed her when she told you that?

ANDERSON

Ed, please.

Ed looks at her quizzically.

SOLOMON

I've found that the best way to purge sin from the body is through pain. You're familiar with pain, Captain, yes?

Solomon picks up a whip and a sickle from a table. He opens the door to the bridge and four other Emissaries walk in.

SOLOMON

Now, your sin is deep enough that even if you were to repent, pain will still be a required part of your penance.

One pair of Emissaries pulls Anderson to her feet and walks her to the window. The other pair lifts Edward to his feet.

EDWARD

Don't! Don't do this!

SOLOMON

(praying)

Hear us, mighty Ra, god of the Sun and the Stars.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

Edward, stop!

As Solomon prays, one of the Emissaries holding Anderson removes a dagger from his belt and cuts the back of her shirt, revealing her bare skin. Solomon begins to slowly walk towards Anderson, whipping his own back with each step he takes. Blood sprays the floor.

SOLOMON

Forgive us our sins, for they are many. We commend to you the flesh of your daughter, and we ask that her sin not be reflected upon us.

Solomon stops a few feet from Anderson, blood dripping down his back. The Emissaries holding Anderson remove her handcuffs and hold her arms out to her sides. Solomon raises the whip.

SOLOMON

Know your sin.

Solomon cracks the whip against her back with enormous force. Blood sprays across the floor as he draws the whip back again - and again - and again.

INT. STATION STAIRWELL - SAME TIME.

Joan hears cries from up above her. She looks up.

JOAN

(to herself)

Ariel -

She runs up the stairs faster.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE ARMORY - SAME TIME.

The Officer, Jonathan, Thaddeus, and a handful of other station crew members all are running down the hall, stopping at the door to the armory. There is a fire extinguisher and a crowbar contained in a fire emergency kit attached to the wall across from the door. The Officer grabs the crowbar and begins to pry open the door with the help of Jonathan and Thaddeus. With some effort, they open the doors.

INT. SHIP HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Max and Catherine are briskly walking down the hall. They pass by an elevator, but after they're several steps past it, the doors open. Half a dozen Emissaries emerge and spot Max and Catherine. They begin to run as the Emissaries give chase.

INT. ARMORY - SAME TIME.

The Officer, Jonathan, and Thaddeus begin to pass around weapons.

Shouts are heard down the hall. Suddenly, a group of Emissaries arrives at the door to the Armory.

INT. ACHILLES STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Solomon cracks the whip one last time, and then throws it forcefully aside. Anderson falls limp into the arms of the Emissaries, blood running down her back. The Emissaries put her jacket back on and she winces in pain. The Emissaries restraining Edward are struggling to keep him from getting to Solomon.

EDWARD

You'll pay for this, Solomon. Don't touch her again.

Solomon briskly walks towards Edwards and punches him in the stomach with extreme force. Edward doubles over in pain.

SOLOMON

You silence is appreciated,  
Overseer.

ANDERSON

(quietly)

Why? Why are you doing this?

Solomon calmly walks over to where the Emissaries are holding Anderson. He leans in to address her.

SOLOMON

Have you heard the story of Icarus, Captain? His story was told by the Greeks several millenia ago. I doubt you remember the Greeks. Icarus, in his foolishness flew into the sky - soaring above the view of men. But he flew too close

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLOMON (cont'd)

to the sun and burned his wings,  
causing him to fall to his  
inevitable death. You flew too  
close to the sun as well, Captain.  
But unlike Icarus, you did not  
simply fall down and die, you  
struck back at her in vengeance.  
You defied the sun and tore her  
apart until she became a blackened  
husk of what she once was. The sun  
burned you, and you traded common  
sense and mercy for ignorance and  
malice. Now you will be truly  
punished for your crimes. Since you  
did not die by the sun, we will  
finish her task.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE HANGER - SAME TIME.

Max and Catherine are running down the hall towards the hanger. As they round a corner, Catherine slips on the metal floor and slams into the wall. As the Emissaries get closer, Max grabs a crowbar from another fire emergency kit on the wall. Dazed, Catherine lifts herself off the floor as Max runs back toward her, swinging the crowbar at the nearest Emissary. He makes contact with the Emissary's jaw and blood sprays the wall.

MAX

(to Catherine)

Run!

Catherine runs down the hall. Max clubs another Emissary and then darts away to catch up with Catherine.

INT. ACHILLES STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Solomon is polishing the sickle he pulled off the table earlier, and slowly walks back over to where a mostly limp Anderson is still being held up.

SOLOMON

Captain, if at any point you wish  
to beg for mercy, Ra will hear your  
prayers, but he will not fulfill  
them.

Solomon grabs Anderson from the Emissaries and forces her to her knees. He grabs a handful of her hair and holds the sickle to her neck. Suddenly, an Emissary runs onto the bridge. An explosion is heard from somewhere in the station.

(CONTINUED)



MESSENGER

The prisoners have broken into the armory.

Solomon takes the sickle from Anderson's neck and pushes her away. She collapses to the floor. Solomon goes to the messenger and grabs him by the collar of his robe.

SOLOMON

Was I or was I not clear when I said there were to be no interruptions?

Solomon hurls the Messenger into the hall and storms out after him.

SOLOMON

(to the four Emissaries still on the bridge)  
Go deal with this insurrection.

The Emissaries that were holding Edward and Anderson leave the bridge. Edward and Anderson watch Solomon brutally beat the Messenger as the doors shut. Edward crawls over to where Anderson is curled up on the floor. He puts his arms around her.

EDWARD

I've got you.

ANDERSON

I'm so sorry, Ed.

EDWARD

No, you can't blame yourself for this. I let them onto the station.

ANDERSON

He's- he's here for me.

EDWARD

He's just a confused, delusional zealot and he could've focused his attention on anyone. We just drew the short straw.

Sounds of gunfire in the halls of the station.

ANDERSON

(weakly)  
They're dead.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

What?

ANDERSON

I didn't mean to, I really didn't.

EDWARD

Ariel-

ANDERSON

They're gone. They're all gone.

EDWARD

Ariel, you've lost a lot of blood,  
You're a little delirious.

More gunfire in the halls.

ANDERSON

They said I'd make history.

EDWARD

Who?

Ariel starts to slip into unconsciousness.

EDWARD

Ariel?

ANDERSON

I didn't mean to.

EDWARD

Ariel, stay with me, we'll make it  
through this.

Edward pulls off his jacket and rests it under Anderson's head. As he does he notices the Meyer insignia hidden beneath her jacket.

ANDERSON

And then it just collapsed.  
Everything collapsed.

EDWARD

Ariel-

ANDERSON

I didn't mean to.

Silence.

( CONTINUED )

EDWARD

Why didn't you ever tell me?

More silence.

EDWARD

Ariel?

She weakly lifts her head up to look at him.

ANDERSON

I didn't want you to ever stop  
loving me.

More gunfire in the distance.

EDWARD

I didn't.

The doors open again, and Solomon re-enters. Behind him in the hall is the mutilated body of the Emissary Messenger. Blood drips from the sickle.

SOLOMON

Now, Captain, I'm afraid that we  
need to expedite the delivery of  
this justice.

He begins to walk towards Anderson. Edwards stands up in front of her.

EDWARD

Don't you touch her, you-

Solomon slams the handle of the sickle into Edward's temple and Edward crumples to the floor.

INT. STATION STAIRWELL - SAME TIME.

Jonathan, Thaddeus, and the Officer ascend the stairs, firing upward as they go. An Emissary falls down the center of the stairwell past them. They hear his body hit the ground several decks below.

JONATHAN

Good lord, how many of you are  
there?

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Joan comes around the corner and sees the maimed body of the Emissary Messenger. There are bloody footprints going from the body of the Messenger into the bridge. She hears the voices of Solomon and Anderson from inside of the bridge.

ANDERSON (VOICE)

What do you want from me?

SOLOMON (VOICE)

I want your soul to burn under the heat of the stars.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Catherine and Max are running down the hall from a group of Emissaries. They burst through a pair of double doors, and Max quickly slides the crowbar through the handles. A sign on the door reads "DECK A". Emissaries begin to pound on the door. Max and Catherine quickly keep jogging down the hallway.

INT. STATION BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER.

Solomon approaches Anderson and grabs her head. He again puts the sickle to her throat. Anderson feels the warmth of the Messenger's blood as it touches her neck.

SOLOMON

Well, Captain, we've reached the end of your journey. Ra will grant you one final plea, if you wish it.

Joan appears in the doorway, rifle aimed at Solomon.

JOAN

You'd better start thinking about your final plea, you son of a bitch.

Solomon turns and gets behind Anderson, sickle still to her throat.

SOLOMON

Ah, the mouse has shown herself.

ANDERSON

Joan, get out of here.

(CONTINUED)

JOAN  
You put that blade away right now.

SOLOMON  
Or what, my child?

Joan cocks the rifle.

JOAN  
I'm sure you know.

SOLOMON  
You are in no place to bargain, my  
dear.

Solomon presses the sickle to Anderson's neck with a little more pressure. Anderson winces. Edward stirs from his unconsciousness.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Max and Catherine are running down the hall, but are stopped by a closed door reading "DECK A - PASSAGE TO BRIDGE". Max slams his elbow into the control panel on the wall and pries back the interface to reveal a bunch of wires.

INT. ACHILLES STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME

SOLOMON  
Put that toy away or I'll tear your  
Captain's pretty little neck open  
right now.

ANDERSON  
Joan, don't listen to him. Go find  
the others.

JOAN  
Captain, I'm not leaving you here.

SOLOMON  
Yes you are, child. My patience  
wears thin.

ANDERSON  
Joan, go. This is between me and  
him.

SOLOMON  
Do you want the Captain's blood on  
your hands?

(CONTINUED)

Joan slowly lowers the rifle.

ANDERSON

No!

Solomon pushes Anderson onto the floor.

SOLOMON

(to Joan)

See, my daughter, that wasn't so  
hard, was it?

Anderson looks up as Solomon hurls the sickle straight at Joan. It hits its mark with exceptional force, lodging itself deep in Joan's chest. She falls to the floor in front of Anderson. Shouts are heard down the hall.

Solomon rushes forward and grabs Anderson by the arm.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

As he pulls her out the door to the bridge, Max and Catherine round the corner of the hall.

MAX

Captain!

Solomon runs the other direction with Anderson. Anderson yells to Max.

ANDERSON

Max, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Solomon and Anderson disappear around the corner. Max and Catherine begin to pursue, but they are stopped when they hear Edward still on the bridge.

EDWARD

Ariel!

CATHERINE

Ed?

Catherine and Max rush onto the bridge.

INT. STATION BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Max is abruptly stopped in his tracks when he sees the body of his dead sister.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Joan-

CATHERINE

Max-

Max runs to her body. Catherine runs to Edward and helps him up off the floor.

CATHERINE

Ed, what happened?

EDWARD

(dazed)

He hit me- when I came to, she was standing there, trying to save Ariel. And then he just-

Edward can't continue. More shouts in the hall.

CATHERINE

Max, we have to go.

MAX

I promised her-

Jonathan, Thaddeus, and the Officer appear at the door to the bridge. They take in the scene in front of them.

THADDEUS

What happened here?

Catherine shoots him a look.

EDWARD

He took Ariel.

JONATHAN

Who?

EDWARD

Solomon, the leader.

MAX

Solomon-

Max grabs the rifle out of Jonathan's hands and sprints out of the bridge.

CATHERINE

Max!

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Solomon is pulling Anderson down the hall. They pass a sign reading "PASSAGE TO ALTERNATE HANGER BAYS".

SOLOMON

Don't think that these minor delays  
will keep you from your final  
judgment.

ANDERSON

She was just a girl.

SOLOMON

A girl who's misguided loyalty to  
you earned her a special place  
among the damned.

Solomon drags Anderson deeper into the station. An Emissary runs up to Solomon.

EMISSARY

Father, all the protocols are in  
place.

SOLOMON

Good, ready my ship.

Anderson takes advantage of Solomon's brief distraction and slams her heel down on his foot. As he doubles over she elbows him in the face. She flees down the hall. The Emissary begins to chase her.

SOLOMON

(to the Emissary)

No, you fool. She's mine. Ready my  
ship!

The Emissary reluctantly goes back the direction in which he came as Solomon begins to pursue Anderson.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Edward, the Officer, Catherine, Jonathan, and Thaddeus are running down the hallway trying to catch up to Max, who is mowing down Emissaries left and right. He bursts through a pair of double doors. The crew follows.



INT. ADJOINING STATION HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS.

Max, Edward, the Officer, and the rest of the crew of the *Hollow Sun* are running down a long windowed hallway on their way to the hanger.

EDWARD

You all need to get to the hanger  
and get off the station. I'm going  
to head to the communications bay  
and put the turrets back online.

Edward runs to a console on the wall near them. He hits a button and speaks into it. His voice can suddenly be heard over the station's PA system.

EDWARD

Attention. Attention. This is  
station overseer Edward Anderson.  
The station has been overtaken by  
Emissaries. Evacuate Now. I repeat,  
evacuate now.

They continue down the hall following Max.

EDWARD

(to the Officer)

I need you to make sure everyone  
gets out of there.

The Officer runs back down the hall.

THADDEUS

Are you crazy? If anyone goes out  
into those halls the Emissaries  
will rip them apart.

EDWARD

Each room in the Civilian wing has  
a pair of escape pods. Everyone  
will be fine. I've run this station  
for ten years now and I haven't  
lost a single civilian life. Today  
won't be that day.

MAX

I guess my sister's life was less  
important.

Dozens of Emissaries rush into the hallway in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD  
Get to the hanger.

Edwards runs back the way they came as the rest of the crew barrels down the hall, guns blazing.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Anderson runs frantically down the sprawling station hallways, desperately trying to find a place to hide. She can hear Solomon yelling at her from some distance behind her.

SOLOMON (VOICE)  
You cannot escape fate, Captain. Ra  
will have his sacrifice.

As she rounds a corner, she suddenly runs into Edward. He grabs her and puts a hand over her mouth. He pulls her into a cleaning closet.

INT. CLEANING CLOSET - SAME TIME.

Edward keeps his hand over Anderson's mouth as they hear Solomon's footsteps approaching.

SOLOMON (VOICE)  
There is only one way out of this,  
Captain. Why do you insist on  
delaying the inevitable?

Solomon's footsteps pass the closet and continue on down the hall. When they can no longer hear Solomon, Edward lowers his hand.

ANDERSON  
Ed.

EDWARD  
Are you all right?

ANDERSON  
Ed, we need to get out of here.

EDWARD  
I know. We will. Everyone else on  
their way to the hanger right now.  
You need to get to them.

Edward opens the door and peeks out. He pulls a map of the station out of his pocket and gives it to Anderson.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

There's not a lot of time. You need to get to the hanger as soon as you can.

Edward begins to leave the closet.

ANDERSON

Where are you going?

EDWARD

I need to get to the communications bay and put the turrets back online. It's the only way to make sure the *Hollow Sun* can get safely off the station.

ANDERSON

Then I'm going with you.

EDWARD

No, you have to get to the hanger. I'll have everything back online by the time you take off.

ANDERSON

Ed, I'm not leaving you again.

EDWARD

Ariel, this is the only way we get out of this. Now I need you to join everyone else at the hanger. I'll be fine. Trust me.

Edward steps out into the hall. Anderson follows.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

ANDERSON

Edward, I'm sorry for causing all this.

EDWARD

I know. We can talk about it later, but now I really need you to get to the hanger.

Emissary voices are heard down the hall. Edward hands Anderson a pistol.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

Don't wait up for me. Get to the hanger and take off. I'll catch up.

Edward gives Anderson a lingering kiss before running off down the hall.

EDWARD

Get to the hanger!

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE HANGER - MOMENTS LATER.

Catherine, Jonathan, Thaddeus, and Max burst into the hanger, guns blazing. A dozen Emissaries fall to the ground as the crew blasts their way towards the *Hollow Sun*.

INT. HANGER - SAME TIME.

Max opens the cargo bay.

MAX

Jon. Thad. Get the engine running. I need everything you can give me.

JONATHAN (VOICE)

It'll take us ten minutes to remove all the limiters.

MAX

Make it five.

Jonathan and Thaddeus run onboard.

MAX

Cat, come on. There's not much time.

CATHERINE

We need to wait for Ed and Ariel.

MAX

There's no time. We need to leave now.

CATHERINE

Max, we're not leaving without her.

MAX

Get on the ship, Catherine.

(CONTINUED)

CATHERINE

No.

Catherine runs to the door of the hanger.

INT. STATION HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Anderson is running frantically down the hall towards the hanger bay. She comes around a corner and sees Catherine in the doorway to the hanger.

CATHERINE

Captain!

As Anderson runs towards the door, Solomon barrels out from one of the side hallways, his nose bloodied from earlier.

SOLOMON

I've had enough of this, Anderson.  
You're time has come.

Before Anderson or Catherine can fire a shot, Solomon rushes Anderson and disarms her. He then grabs her and runs her away from the hanger.

CATHERINE

Ariel!

Catherine looks for a clean shot, but there is none to be had. Solomon and Anderson round the corner and are out of Catherine's sight. Catherine runs back into the hanger.

INT. *HOLLOW SUN* BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER.

Max frantically initiates the launch protocol. The engine whirs to life. Catherine runs in.

CATHERINE

Solomon has the Captain.

Max continues to work the consoles.

MAX

Good.

CATHERINE

Max, we need to go back for her.

Max hits the intercom.

(CONTINUED)

MAX  
Gentlemen, we're taking off.

CATHERINE  
Max!

Max takes the controls and the *Hollow Sun* lurches out of the hanger.

MAX  
Cat, we're going back, but only for Solomon. He needs to die.

INT. ALTERNATE STATION HANGER - SAME TIME.

Solomon pulls Anderson into the alternate hanger. There is a large Emissary ship docked and ready for launch. Several Emissaries scurry around it.

SOLOMON  
(to the Emissaries)  
Gentlemen, it's time. Praise be to Ra!

EMISSARIES  
Praise be to Ra!

The Emissaries leave the hanger.

ANDERSON  
Where are they going?

SOLOMON  
To fulfill their duty.

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER.

Solomon pulls Anderson into the bridge and throws her into the co-pilot's seat. He shackles her to the chair and fires up the ship.

EXT. ACHILLES STATION - SAME TIME.

The Emissary ship glides out of the hanger. The *Hollow Sun* can be seen on the other side of the station.

INT. *HOLLOW SUN* BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Max sees Solomon's ship flying out of the station.

MAX  
There's Solomon's ship. Cat, the  
cannons.

CATHERINE  
Max, Ariel is onboard that ship.

MAX  
If he hasn't killed her already.

CATHERINE  
Max-

MAX  
I need the cannons online now!

CATHERINE  
You're going to kill her.

Max is silent for a moment.

MAX  
It should've been her.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BAY - SAME TIME.

Edward enters into the communications bay. He runs to a desk console and begins to push buttons. The console reads "TURRET SYSTEM ONLINE". He gets up to leave, but hears a beeping noise from behind the console.

EDWARD  
What?

He looks around the console and sees a neat stack of high-tech explosives. Emissary voices are heard in the hall.

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Solomon opens up a channel on the intercom.

SOLOMON  
My children, you may commence  
detonation.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

What?

Anderson looks out the window and sees the communications bay explode.

ANDERSON

Edward!

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

The crew of the *Hollow Sun* also sees the communications bay explode.

EXT. ACHILLES STATION - SAME TIME.

The turrets of the Achilles Station begin to swing in the direction of Solomon's ship. The turrets open fire. One of them finds it's mark on one of Emissary ship's boosters.

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

The impact of the shell shakes the whole ship. Solomon looks at the console. The gauge for "THRUSTER STRENGTH" goes from "100" to "0".

SOLOMON

Not out of the woods yet, are we,  
Captain?

INT. *HOLLOW SUN* BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Max throttles the ship ahead towards the crippled Emissary ship. Catherine is standing at the door.

MAX

Cat, we're close to firing range. I  
need the cannons online.

CATHERINE

No, Max.

Cathrine continues to stand there.

MAX

Catherine!

Sounds of gunfire within the ship. Suddenly Thaddeus is heard over the intercom.

(CONTINUED)



THADDEUS (VOICE)  
We have a situation down here!

INT. *HOLLOW SUN* CARGO BAY - SAME TIME.

Brandt has escaped the crate that Joan threw him into, and is hobbling towards the door to the engine room. Several boxes behind him are on fire.

BRANDT  
The hour of reckoning is upon you.  
The wheels are already in motion.

Jonathan and Thaddeus are pinned down behind the door, trying to avoid Brandt's erratic gunfire.

BRANDT  
The fires of hell are nothing  
compared to the heat of the sun.

Brandt pulls out a incendiary grenade and yanks out the pin.

JONATHAN  
Run!

Brandt throws the grenade through the doorway as Jonathan and Thaddeus make a break for it. The grenade ignites and engulfs the engine in flames.

BRANDT  
Plead for mercy before the god of  
the sun!

Catherine appears on the scaffolding above Brandt. Catherine fires several rounds from her pistol. Brandt falls to the ground, but the damage to the *Hollow Sun* has already been done. Catherine climbs down off the scaffolding and checks Brandt's pulse.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE ENGINE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Jonathan and Thaddeus are putting out the fire from the grenade as the engine shuts off. Catherine runs up.

CATHERINE  
The Emissary is still alive-  
barely. The fire's out now too. How  
bad is it in here?

They extinguish the last of the fire.

(CONTINUED)

THADDEUS

Bad. *If* we can get her to turn back on, we'll only get to fifty percent power - maybe.

Max can be heard on the intercom.

MAX (VOICE)

You're going to want to come take a look at the radar.

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER.

Solomon is preparing the ship for warp. One of the monitors shows the image of the star at the center of the Achilles system

SOLOMON

I do believe I've come up with a far more poetic way for you to die.

Solomon sets the ships coordinates to the center of the Achilles system. He looks out the window and sees the *Hollow Sun* coasting towards them.

SOLOMON

Take a good look, Captain.

EXT. EMISSARY SHIP - SAME TIME.

Solomon's ship warps off towards the star.

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Solomon leans back in his chair as the ship glides through warp.

SOLOMON

Now, Captain, I never asked you this before, but how does it feel to be at the end of your life?

ANDERSON

Go to hell.

SOLOMON

So touchy, Captain.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

You just murdered my husband.

SOLOMON

Husband? Really? I thought you had left him.

ANDERSON

I- How do you know that?

SOLOMON

I've done my homework, Captain.

ANDERSON

Now look here, Emissary, how do you expect-

SOLOMON

Remember the press conference, Captain? What a day that was.

ANDERSON

What?

SOLOMON

You must remember. There are some memories you just can't push down deep enough, can you?

ANDERSON

Who are you?

SOLOMON

I would've been just another face in the crowd to you. Another man demanding answers.

Solomon pulls a letter out of his robe and gives it to Anderson.

SOLOMON

You see those three horrible words, Captain? "Our deepest condolences..."

ANDERSON

I don't understand.

SOLOMON

And when you saw that face in the crowd, you never could have known that his brother would be one of the first to reap the consequences

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLOMON (cont'd)  
of your mistake. "Our deepest  
condolences."

Anderson is silent.

SOLOMON  
Do you remember their names,  
Captain?

ANDERSON  
Every one.

Solomon stands and pulls a picture out of his robe. He shows  
it to Anderson.

SOLOMON  
Who is he, Captain?

The recognition of the face in the picture shows in  
Anderson's eyes, but she can't bring herself to say his  
name.

SOLOMON  
Tell me.

Silence

SOLOMON  
Captain?

ANDERSON  
Mark Thomas.

SOLOMON  
What's that, Captain? You'll have  
to speak up.

ANDERSON  
Don't patronize me.

SOLOMON  
(forcefully)  
Tell me his name!

ANDERSON  
His name was Mark Thomas.

Solomon puts the picture away.

ANDERSON  
I knew him.

(CONTINUED)

SOLOMON  
So did I, Captain.

ANDERSON  
Mark was like a brother to me.

Solomon lunges towards her and stops with his face inches from hers.

SOLOMON  
I hope I don't need to explain to  
you why my hurt cuts ever so much  
deeper than yours.

ANDERSON  
I understand.

Solomon gets up again.

ANDERSON  
I'm sorry.

SOLOMON  
Don't, Captain.

Solomon looks down at the flight console. The console reads  
"16:00 UNTIL WARP FINALIZATION".

INT. HOLLOW SUN CARGO BAY - SAME TIME.

A small one man shuttle touches down in the cargo bay. The bay doors close and the air equalizes. The door to the shuttle opens and a slightly singed Edward emerges.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER.

Catherine, Edward, Jonathan, Max, and Thaddeus are all in the bridge. Brandt is tied up in one of the chairs.

EDWARD  
Where did he take her?

BRANDT  
You scum can't intimidate me.

JONATHAN  
No, but we can beat you.

Jonathan punches Brandt in the face.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD  
Where did he take her?

BRANDT  
The more pain you cause me to  
suffer, the greater my eternal  
reward shall be.

EDWARD  
Well, by the end of this I guess  
you'll be a king.

Edward punches Brandt in the face. Brandt's nose is  
bloodied.

EDWARD  
You tell me where she is.

BRANDT  
I can't tell you that, Overseer.

EDWARD  
The hell you can't.

Edward punches Brandt again. A trickle of blood spills from  
Brandt's mouth.

CATHERINE  
Edward-

EDWARD  
Where is my wife?

BRANDT  
I don't know.

Max looks to Jonathan and Thaddeus.

MAX  
We need that engine up and running  
right now.

Jonathan and Thaddeus run out.

CATHERINE  
I'll give them a hand.

Catherine runs out.

BRANDT  
You're already too late. The time  
of our redemption is here. Your  
captain's soul belongs to Ra now.

(CONTINUED)

Edward clenches his fist again.

BRANDT

Tell me, Overseer, how does it feel  
to have shared the same bed with a  
murderer?

EDWARD

Quiet.

BRANDT

To know she lied to you for all  
those years. How deep is that hurt,  
my friend?

MAX

(to Edward)

What's he talking about?

BRANDT

What a waste of a life.

EDWARD

Shut up.

Edward slams his fist into Brandt's face. Brandt passes out.  
Edward cradles his now very bruised hand.

MAX

Edward, what's he talking about?

Edward is silent.

MAX

This wasn't just coincidence was  
it?

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Anderson and Solomon sit in silence as the ship warps on.

ANDERSON

So, this was never really about the  
sun, was it?

SOLOMON

It's not as black and white as  
that, Captain. This is very much  
about the sun, but you destroyed  
two things I loved.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON  
Did Mark know?

SOLOMON  
Excuse me?

ANDERSON  
Did he know you were an Emissary?

SOLOMON  
This isn't about me, Captain.

ANDERSON  
I'll take that as a 'no' then?

Solomon doesn't speak.

ANDERSON  
You don't see the irony? The very  
thing you worship killed your  
brother?

SOLOMON  
You killed him.

ANDERSON  
What, so an eye for an eye I guess?

SOLOMON  
That was the goal. The Overseer and  
the girl were unfortunate victims,  
but such is the way of things in  
times of war.

ANDERSON  
This isn't a war. This is your  
personal vendetta. You're insane.

SOLOMON  
The difference between insanity and  
enlightenment is merely a matter of  
opinion, Captain.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - MINUTES LATER.

Max, Jonathan, and Thaddeus are all intently examining the  
engine.

THADDEUS  
The damage isn't nearly as  
extensive as it could've been. I  
think if we replace the power  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



THADDEUS (cont'd)  
converters and the turbine hood we  
might be able to bring her back to  
life.

MAX  
How soon?

THADDEUS  
Not long at all if we actually have  
the parts.

MAX  
Well get on it then.

Jonathan and Thaddeus exit the engine room and head for the cargo bay. Max walks out and meets Catherine in the hall.

INT. SHIP HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Max and Catherine walk towards the bridge.

CATHERINE  
How're you doing?

MAX  
How do you think?

They walk in silence for a moment.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER.

Edward gazes out in the direction that Solomon's ship went. Brandt is still unconscious and bloodied. Max and Catherine enter. Max walks up to Brandt and slaps him in the face several times.

MAX  
Hey, sunshine, wake up. Nap time's  
over.

Brandt stirs.

MAX  
What's your problem with the  
Captain? Why her? Why now?

BRANDT  
You really don't know?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Why is my sister dead?

BRANDT

Well I'd assume from blood loss.

Max punches him in the face.

MAX

Answer me!

Brandt looks towards Edward.

BRANDT

He knows.

MAX

Ed?

BRANDT

(to Edward)

I saw it in your eyes. She finally told you, didn't she?

EDWARD

It was a mistake.

BRANDT

Was it, Overseer? How do you know?  
Can you really trust anything she's told you?

MAX

If you're going to say something,  
Emissary, spit it out.

BRANDT

She lied to all of you, didnt' she?

MAX

What?

BRANDT

She was the mastermind- the brains behind it all.

MAX

Ed?

EDWARD

It was an accident.

( CONTINUED )

BRANDT

That doesn't change the result.

MAX

Edward, what's he talking about?

BRANDT

She built those machines!

Max and Edward are silent for a moment.

EDWARD

She was just following orders.

BRANDT

Orders? Are you really so blind, Overseer? She lied to all of you. She hid herself from you all those years. And still you persist in trying to rescuing her? The woman you're trying to rescue doesn't exist. She's just a figment of your imagination.

MAX

Edward, tell me he's lying.

BRANDT

I can assure you I'm not.

MAX

Shut up.

Max stares at Edward.

MAX

Ed.

Jonathan is heard over the intercom.

JONATHAN (VOICE)

She's live!

They hear the engine of the *Hollow Sun* roar back to life. Max turns to Brandt.

MAX

Tell me where Solomon took the Captain.

BRANDT

No.

Max pauses for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

If you tell me where they are, I'll  
kill her myself.

EDWARD

What?

MAX

Ed, Joan is gone because of the  
Captain. I want answers.

Edward stands up, but Max pulls out a pistol and points it  
at Edward.

MAX

Don't try to stop me.

Edward stops.

MAX

Get out.

Edward hesitantly backs out of the bridge, and Max closes  
the door.

MAX

(to Brandt)

Tell me where she is.

INT. EMISSARY SHIP BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Solomon's ship comes out of warp several hundred kilometers  
from a massive star.

SOLOMON

Would you look at it, Captain? Have  
you every seen anything more  
beautiful?

ANDERSON

Once or twice.

SOLOMON

I'll miss your sarcasm, Captain. I  
truly will.

Solomon sets the autopilot on the console. The ship begins  
to very slowly limp towards the star. Sparks spit out of the  
damaged boosters. The star's gravity is doing more to pull  
the ship in than the boosters are.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

I'm glad I could have such an impact on your life.

Solomon gets up and walks over to Anderson.

SOLOMON

It's time, Ariel. I think this is what you would call 'poetic justice'.

ANDERSON

What is this supposed to accomplish?

SOLOMON

Your death will balance out the scales, Captain. All those poor souls begging for their deaths to have not been in vain will finally be put to rest. And, as you said before, an eye for an eye.

Solomon undoes her shackles and lifts her to her feet.

SOLOMON

Just one more thing before I go.

Solomon punches her and she falls to her knees.

SOLOMON

Goodbye, Captain.

As Solomon turns to leave, Anderson snaps one of her shackles onto Solomon's ankle. She clips the other to a pipe on the floor. Solomon attempts to pull the key back out of his robe, but Anderson tackles him.

SOLOMON

Trying to leave another body in your wake, Captain?

ANDERSON

It was an accident, Solomon. I never meant to hurt anybody.

SOLOMON

But you did.

Solomon elbows her and pushes her off of him. He again attempts to get the key. She runs back to him and kicks him in the ankle. They both hear it crack. Solomon falls to one knee. Anderson stands over him.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

We all lost people, Solomon. You're not the only one who lost someone you loved. We tried to stop it.

SOLOMON

You didn't try hard enough.

Solomon pulls a small concealed blade out of his sleeve. He thrusts the blade between Anderson's ribs.

EXT. STAR - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* comes out of warp. Solomon's ship is gaining speed towards the star as it is continued to be pulled in by gravity.

INT. *HOLLOW SUN* BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Max and Brandt look out the windows of the bridge and see Solomon's ship. Brandt is still restrained. Catherine and Edward can be seen through the window in the door to the bridge. Max has locked the door.

CATHERINE

Max, stop.

Max speeds the ship towards Solomon's vessel.

MAX

Coming into firing range.

Suddenly, Max sees an escape pod launch from Solomon's ship towards a nearby planet. A warning flashes on Max's monitor

WARNING: EXCESSIVE GRAVITATIONAL PULL - ALTER COURSE

Max cuts the ships engines and watches as Solomon's ship is pulled into the star.

EDWARD

Ariel!

BRANDT

(praying)

Ra, we give to you the soul of your fallen daughter, who-

MAX

Shut up.

(CONTINUED)

Max picks up the pistol and shoots Brandt in the head. Max fires the engine back up and swings the ship in the direction of the escape pod.

MAX

This isn't over.

The door to the bridge suddenly opens.

CATHERINE

Max, what are you doing?

MAX

If I can't have the Captain I'm sure as hell not going to lose Solomon.

CATHERINE

Max-

Max turns around and sees Edward, Jonathan, and Thaddeus all holding guns.

CATHERINE

I'm relieving you of duty.

EXT. PLANET - DAY / LATER.

The escape pod is half buried in the sand that covers most of this planet. The *Hollow Sun* comes out of the sky and lands nearby. The door to the cargo bay opens and Catherine, Edward, Jonathan, and Thaddeus disembark. Thaddeus is holding a gun in one hand and guiding a handcuffed Max in the other.

EDWARD

There is it.

Edward and Catherine run to the escape pod. Edward puts his hand over the latch it open the pod.

CATHERINE

Wait. Jonathan, get over here.

Jonathan comes over.

CATHERINE

Make sure he doesn't try anything.

Jonathan points his rifle at the door.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

Ready?

CATHERINE

Ready.

Edward pulls the latch and whips open the door. Some smoke spills out, revealing a bloody Anderson sitting in the escape pod. She is holding the wound in her side.

EDWARD

Ariel!

Jonathan puts the gun down and helps Edward pull Anderson out of the pod.

EDWARD

Get her to the ship!

They quickly carry Anderson back to the *Hollow Sun*. Max is agitated, but Thaddeus restrains him. Suddenly, Emissary ships appear in the sky.

JONATHAN

Emissaries!

CATHERINE

These people just don't give up.

They run onto the *Hollow Sun* and take off. The *Hollow Sun* roars across the desert dunes as the Emissary ships begins their pursuit.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Jonathan is piloting the ship.

JONATHAN

Cat, now is a good time for the guns.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - SAME TIME.

Anderson is gingerly placed on the operating table. Catherine follows close behind them.

THADDEUS

We need to get that wound closed.

Anderson stirs and opens her eyes slightly. She looks at Edward.

(CONTINUED)



EDWARD  
We've got you Ariel.

INT. FIRING ROOM - SAME TIME.

Catherine fires up the cannons.

CATHERINE  
Cannons coming online.

A targeting system appears on her screen.

CATHERINE  
We're on.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

JONATHAN  
Bring 'em down.

EXT. DESERT - SAME TIME.

The cannons of the *Hollow Sun* spin in the direction of the Emissary ships. She flies low to the ground across the vast sea of sand. Several shots are fired at the Emissary ships, but none land.

The Emissary ships are gaining and begin to return fire.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - SAME TIME.

The ship rattles as shells fly past her.

EDWARD  
(into the intercom)  
Steady now!

JONATHAN (VOICE)  
I'm doing the best I can.

INT. FIRING ROOM - SAME TIME.

CATHERINE  
Their flight paths are too erratic.

JONATHAN (VOICE)  
You can do it, Cat.

EXT. DESERT - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* unleashes a barrage of shells at the nearest Emissary ship and rips it apart. Pieces of the ship bury themselves in the sand as the remaining ships continue the chase.

INT. FIRING ROOM - SAME TIME.

CATHERINE

One down!

EXT. DESERT - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* is approaching a mountain range.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

JONATHAN (VOICE)

Hold on everybody.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* takes down two more of the vessels as she screams into the mountains. Only one Emissary vessel is left. They fly through dozens of twists and turns, narrowly avoiding impact each time.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

JONATHAN

Cat, fire the cannons in front of us.

CATHERINE (VOICE)

What?

JONATHAN

Just trust me.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* fires ahead into the mountain, and huge boulders come tumbling down. Jonathan hits the boosters, and the *Hollow Sun* flies just underneath the falling debris. The Emissary ship is not so lucky.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - SAME TIME.

JONATHAN (VOICE)  
We're in the clear.

THADDEUS  
I take back every bad thing I ever  
said about those cannons.

EDWARD  
(to Anderson)  
I've got you, Ariel.

Edward kisses Anderson on the forehead.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. INTERPLANETARY TERMINAL - EARLY DAWN, DAYS LATER.

FADE UP on ships flying in and out of a bustling hanger. Crew members load goods and personal belongings onto a multitude of ships docked in the terminal. The *Hollow Sun* touches down in one of the smaller docks. Several Federal Marshals are waiting as the cargo bay doors open.

EDWARD  
Glad you gentlemen could make it.  
We've got the Emissary's body  
inside.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
Thank you, Overseer. We will need  
to debrief you and your crew of  
course.

EDWARD  
Oh, they're not my crew.

ANDERSON  
They're mine.

Anderson stands at the door of the cargo bay. She has her arm in a sling.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
My mistake.

EDWARD  
Ariel, you need rest.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

I'm fine, Ed. I think I can handle  
an interview with these men.

She walks over to the Marshal.

ANDERSON

Captain Ariel Anderson. My crew and  
I are ready whenever you need us.

She shakes the marshal's hand, but winces slightly when she  
does.

FEDERAL MARSHAL

We will proceed when you're ready,  
Captain.

Jonathan and Catherine walk out followed closely by Thaddeus  
and Max. Max is still handcuffed, but he appears to be in a  
much calmer state than before, almost somber.

ANDERSON

Now is good.

The Marshals begin to walk away from the ship, and the crew  
follows.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM WAITING AREA - MINUTES LATER.

The crew all sit around the waiting area as they wait for  
the Marshal to call them in.

FEDERAL MARSHAL

Overseer? We'll begin with you.

Edward gets up and goes into the conference room.

CATHERINE

How do you feel, Ariel?

ANDERSON

As long as I don't twist too much,  
it's fine. It was just a knife.  
I've had worse.

CATHERINE

(more quietly)

That's not really what I was  
asking, Captain.

Catherine subtly nods in Max's direction. Anderson  
understands. She stands up and walks to the door.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

Hey, Max?

Max looks up.

ANDERSON

Could you join me in the hall for a second?

Max looks around briefly and then gets up.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME.

Max and Anderson stand just outside the door.

ANDERSON

Max- I need to talk to you.

MAX

I know.

Anderson takes a moment before continuing.

ANDERSON

I'm sorry about Joan.

Max is quiet.

ANDERSON

I didn't mean to drag any of you into this.

MAX

When were you going to tell us?

ANDERSON

I hoped I wouldn't have to.

More silence.

ANDERSON

A lot of good that did me.

MAX

Captain, you should have known that one day this would happen.

ANDERSON

I know.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

The whole foundation of a good crew  
is built on trust. How did you  
expect this to work out if you lied  
to all of us?

ANDERSON

I don't know.

Awkward silence.

ANDERSON

I'm sorry.

MAX

I know.

More silence.

MAX

I don't think I can come back to  
the *Hollow Sun*.

Anderson looks at Max.

MAX

I don't trust you, Captain.

Silence.

MAX

I might be able to forgive you one  
day, but I can't right now. It's  
not like we'll never see each  
other, Captain. It's a small  
universe. I'll tell the rest of the  
crew later.

Catherine pops her head out the door.

CATHERINE

They're calling for you, Cap.

Max and Anderson look at each other for another moment  
before Anderson goes back into the waiting area.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM WAITING AREA - MINUTES LATER.

The Marshal is waiting.

(CONTINUED)

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
Ah, Captain. Are you ready?

ANDERSON  
Yes.

As she walks through the waiting area, Edward gives her a little squeeze on the shoulder.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME.

Anderson and the marshal walk into the room. The two other Marshals are already inside. Anderson and the Marshal sit down on opposite ends of a long conference table.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
You've been through a lot, Captain Anderson. I promise we won't keep you here long.

ANDERSON  
It's alright, marshal.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
I understand you were on a delivery mission when you docked at Overseer Anderson's station in Achilles?

ANDERSON  
Yes.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
And what were you delivering?

ANDERSON  
We were picking up food and medical supplies for drop off at Orion VI.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
Who was the client?

ANDERSON  
Technically the whole planet I guess. There was an Emissary blockade in that part of the system. Our contact was with Governor Hillis.

FEDERAL MARSHAL  
Now, I have on your crew manifest a 'Max' and 'Joan Hillis'.

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

That's his son and daughter. It was- It was supposed to be Joan's last flight with us.

FEDERAL MARSHAL

Why's that?

ANDERSON

She was going back to help oversee the distribution of the supplies we were dropping off.

FEDERAL MARSHAL

I see.

The Marshal makes a note on his clipboard. He pauses before continuing.

FEDERAL MARSHAL

Now, do you know why Solomon Thomas came after you and your crew?

ANDERSON

Yes, sir, I do.

INT. INTERPLANETARY TERMINAL - HOURS LATER.

The crew returns to where the *Hollow Sun* is docked. With the exception of Anderson, they are all carrying luggage of some sort. Anderson's dialogue is continues to be heard as we watch the crew approach the ship.

ANDERSON (VOICE)

I was the lead technician at Meyer Engineering, and my designs were used to build the mining ships that caused the Collapse. I thought I could run from my past, but I wasn't fast enough.

The crew begins to get on the ship, but Max stops at the doors to the cargo bay. The rest of the crew drop their bags in the cargo bay and then return to the where Max is standing. One by one, they wordlessly share hugs and handshakes, Anderson being last in line.

MAX

(quietly to Anderson)

You make sure they know my sister was a hero, okay?

(CONTINUED)



ANDERSON

I will.

Max shoulders his bag and departs into the busy terminal.  
The crew re-enters the *Hollow Sun*.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER.

Catherine, Anderson, and Edward enter the bridge. Edward sits in the pilot's chair. Catherine looks out the window and watches as Max walks into the sea of people.

CATHERINE

He's really not coming back is he?

EDWARD

Can you blame him?

They sit in silence as the engine whirs to life once more.

EDWARD

Where're we headed?

ANDERSON

Orion VI. We've got some people waiting for us.

EXT. INTERPLANETARY TERMINAL - SAME TIME.

The *Hollow Sun* departs and flies out into the vastness of space. She warps off into the distance.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - DAY.

The now Max-less crew are all driving an open roof truck through the streets of Orion VI, boxes of supplies stacked up in the bed of the truck. A row a similar trucks follow. They drive up through the gates of the Governor's estate and park by the doors.

ANDERSON

Thaddeus, start organizing the unload.

Thaddeus walks down the line of trucks, giving orders as men begin in unload the plethora of supplies. The Governor and his wife come out of the mansion to greet the crew. Anderson pulls a smaller box out of the truck - it is all of Joan's material possessions.

(CONTINUED)

The teary eyed Governor takes the box from Anderson and pulls out a picture of Joan and Max.

GOVERNOR HILLIS  
Thank you, Captain.

EXT. OUTDOOR MEMORIAL SERVICE - DUSK.

The crew stands amongst a mass of people, all listening to the words of a PREACHER. The Governor and his wife stand next to the preacher, each doing their best to hold back the tears. Edward puts his arm around Anderson's waist and she rests her head on his shoulder.

A picture of Joan rests on a pedestal at the front of the crowd. A wreath is laid at the foot of the pedestal.

EXT. ORION VI LANDING AREA - HOURS LATER.

The *Hollow Sun* sits silent in the landing area. The crew pulls back up to the doors of the cargo bay.

CATHERINE  
I still can't believe she's gone.

JONATHAN  
Me neither.

CATHERINE  
Max too.

THADDEUS  
We'll make due. We always have.

ANDERSON  
Well in any case, that's one delivery down. Let's hope this next trip is not as eventful.

JONATHAN  
Yeah, that's more excitement then I ever need to have again.

CATHERINE  
Ed, where are we dropping you off?

EDWARD  
That's a good question actually. Somewhere without Emissaries hopefully.

(CONTINUED)

JONATHAN

I'm sure we could find somewhere.

EDWARD

I'll take work wherever I can find it, honestly.

THADDEUS

I'm sure there's plenty of stations that could use a good overseer like you.

EDWARD

Well, let's get off the ground first. We've got some time before any formal decisions need to be made.

INT. GALLEY - MID-WARP.

The dull hum of the warp engine rests over the whole ship. Anderson sits in the galley, sorting through dozens of pictures of pilots looking for work. Thaddeus and Jonathan are playing chess and drinking beer. Catherine enters.

CATHERINE

We've a couple minutes before we leave warp. Contact says the supplies will be ready when we arrive.

ANDERSON

Good.

Catherine sees the stack of photos.

CATHERINE

Any luck?

Anderson shrugs.

ANDERSON

I've only ever worked with two really great pilots, the first was Max and the second was-

Edward enters.

EDWARD

We're almost there, folks. Why don't we start prepping the cargo bay? Jonathan, you can handle the landing sequence?

(CONTINUED)

JONATHAN

You bet.

EDWARD

Great.

Jonathan gets up and heads to the bridge.

EDWARD

(to Anderson)

You ready, Ariel?

EXT. CARGO PICK UP HANGER - DAY.

Catherine, Jonathan, and Thaddeus are all loading the last of the boxes onto the *Hollow Sun*. Edward emerges with his bag over his shoulder.

EDWARD

Well, back into the workforce.

Anderson is quiet.

EDWARD

It was great to see you, even if half of the time we were both unconscious.

ANDERSON

Yeah.

EDWARD

Don't make any other cults angry while I'm away, okay?

Edward begins to walk away.

ANDERSON

Ed-

Edward stops and turns back around.

ANDERSON

You know, come to think of it I actually happen to know someone who's in need of a good pilot.

EDWARD

Oh, really?

(CONTINUED)

ANDERSON

Yeah, if you send her your resumé  
I'm sure she'd be willing to look  
it over.

EDWARD

Well what are the working  
conditions like?

ANDERSON

The crew's pretty nice. The ship's  
a little old, but she holds  
together.

Edward walks back over.

ANDERSON

I hear the captain's pretty hot  
too.

EDWARD

Well, I'll be the judge of that.

ANDERSON

So... should I put you two in  
touch?

EDWARD

You may as well, I'll work for just  
about anybody, really.

They kiss.

Jonathan, Thaddeus, and Catherine are patiently waiting in  
the cargo bay.

JONATHAN

Get a room.

ANDERSON

I think I can arrange that.

They all board the *Hollow Sun*. We see Jonathan and Thaddeus  
return to the engine room, Catherine go to the firing  
control bay, as Edward and Anderson enter the bridge.

INT. HOLLOW SUN BRIDGE - SAME TIME.

Edward hits the intercom.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

(into the comms)

Terminus, this is intercept frigate  
*Hollow Sun* requesting permission to  
depart.

TERMINAL COMMS OFFICER (VOICE)

Roger that, *Hollow Sun*. You're  
clear for departure. Fly safe.

ANDERSON

(into the comms)

Copy that, Terminus.

She switches off the comms.

ANDERSON

Take her away, Ed.

THE END.