



The Tranzia Rebellion

An Space Marine Battles Audio Drama (2014)

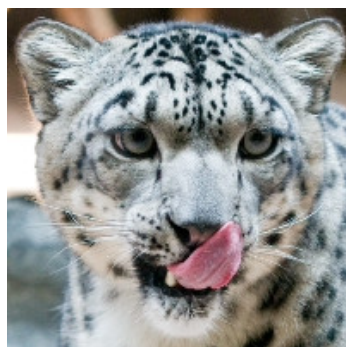
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Directed by Samuel Gunn

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Created by



&



List of characters:Doom Eagles:

- HEARON - Chapter Master;
 KAEPHON - First Captain;
 EIFADON - Chaplain;
 MEKATUS - Scout Captain;
 TARMOROS - Chaplain;
 SAKIRA - Apothecary;
 NATALON - Techmarine;
 TOLCKA - Librarian Primus (the Chief Librarian);
 TANOS - Master of Grief's Vengeance.

Adeptus Mechanicus:

- AMANTER - Adeptus Mechanicus magus

Adeptus Ministorum:

- KIMANSKI - Drill Abbot (Spoiler! Ahzek Ahriman- true identity revealed)

Adepta Sorroritas:

- ALESKA - Canoness of the Order of the Blazing Tears;
 JEARNA - Seraphim;
 EVANGELINE - Seraphim;
 BENEDICTIS - Seraphim.

Tau:

- O'SHA KIR - commander of the Tau;
 FIO'FERA - Earth caste Tau;
 EI'METAN - Tau second in command.

PART 01

(walking footsteps)

Eifadon: "Magus Amanter?"

Amanter: "Chaplain Eifadon? So good to see you again. It must have been a decade since you last visited Tranzia".

Eifadon: "A little more than that. The tides of the warp have been inclement of late and the Doom Eagles are several years overdue for the Caucus of Aspirancy. I see you have not been idle in that time, magus".

Amanter: "Ah".

Eifadon: "The last time I was here your dig was barely a few meters deep and only a handful of relics had been recovered. You must close to half a kilometer down now and from what I've seen from your storage facility at our fortress monastery you are excavating items from the time of the Annihilation".

Amanter: "Indeed, in the past few years I have gone at numerous items relating to the xenos genocide that took place here, but I've now gone even deeper and my finds are intriguing to say the least".

Eifadon: "In what way?"

Amanter: "The top layers were as I expected. The detritus of Imperium second colonization of the past few millennia, nothing of any import giving way to Annihilation era artifacts. Again exactly what I had expected: a mix of weapons from both Imperial and alien forces".

Eifadon: "And then what did you find?"

Amanter: "Not at all what I expected. The human remains carried on for several meters more, from the pre-Annihilation era when the planet was originally settled, but then nothing for the next year. Where I should have been finding evidence of the animal life believed to have populated the planet before mankind came here, instead I drew a complete blank. My masters in the Adeptus Mechanicus withdrew most of the personnel here and moved them on to other sites on different worlds. I was indulged thanks to my standing along the superiors, but only allowed to retain a small team of excavation servitors and a handful of local scholars and volunteers".

Eifadon: "But your persistence paid off".

Amanter: "Eventually yes. After years of not uncovering anything I suddenly hit a new scene. For the past few months the volume of relics I've recovered has been overwhelming. I am almost at the point where I'll have to petition Mars for more resources".

Eifadon: "So if you aren't unearthing evidence of pre-human animal species, what are you uncovering?"

Amanter: “Xenos artifacts, identical to those from the time of the Annihilation but predating them by many thousands of years”.

Eifadon: “But how is that possible? If these artifacts are evidence of the ancestors of the aliens that wiped out the original colonists, then surely they’d be more primitive”.

Amanter: “My understanding of these particular xenos strain is limited. It may be that it was a slowly progressing race, though it is just as likely that tectonic activity has dislodged the later relics to keep the impression that the aliens were present on Tranzia much earlier than we thought”.

Eifadon: “Might I see some of your recent discoveries?”

Amanter: “Of course, please follow me”.

Eifadon: “I may not be able to stay long however. Chapter master Hearon and the Council of Eagles are due to make planetfall in the next few hours and it is my duty to be there to greet them”.

Voice (whispering): “Dela nero nindi...”

Eifadon (wondering): “Did you just say something?”

Amanter: “Me? No, I didn’t say anything. Come now, I have a very interesting shoulder guard from the set of xenos armor that I’d like you to see. Did you say the Council of Eagles were on their way? I do hope nothing unduvort has happened to techmarine Natalon in the intervening years. It will be so nice...”

(Magus’s voice being sent to the background by numerous whispering voices)

Numerous voices (whispering): “Nariatho... Manefito... Poshi...”

(Magus still talking unrecognizably in the background)

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(several beeping sounds)

Kaephon: “Is something troubling you, Librarian Tolkca? You have barely spoken a word since the left the hangar bay of Grief’s Vengeance”.

Sakira: “Tolkca, the Master of the Forge just addressed you. Did something ail you? Is the woe of atrocities past palpable7 to your psychic gifts?”

Numerous voices (whispering): “Tal Nemeth... Fur de long...”

Tolkca: “My apologies, apothecary Sakira. No, that...”

Hearon (interrupting) “The Eagle II, this is Eagle I. We are less than kilometers from the fortress monastery and Chaplain Eifadon informs me that the Caucus will commence immediately upon our arrival. Canoness Aleska and an honor guard of Seraphim will be there to greet us, so make any final preparations now”.

Kaephon: “Understood, master Hearon, see you on the ground (vox over). You heard the Chapter Master so let’s make ourselves presentable, brothers. That includes you, Mekatus, if you insist on wearing your scout armor then you could have at least taken a time to clean it before we are boarding the firm dock”.

Mekatus: “Nothing wrong with a bit of battle decoration, First Captain. Besides, if any of those aspirants are deemed worthy then they’ll soon be wearing similar armor as I put them to the test”.

Natalon (laughing): “Some hope for that. This will be our tenth time here in a century and during it all not a single Chaplain has been recruited from among the ranks of Tranzia’s orphans”.

Sakira: “Chaplain Tarmoros was the last to be drawn from this world and it took him less than a century to ascend to the highest ranking in the Reclusiam. Do not be so quick to dismiss the qualities of Tranzia’s stock, brother Natalon. A high mortality rates among the planet’s mineral miners provide ample aspiration for our chaplain novitiates”.

Mekatus: “Brother Tolkca knows better than any of us how worthy...”
(unable to finish)

Numerous voices (whispering): “Aloth”

Mekatus: “Is there something wrong, librarian?”

Numerous voices (whispering): “Dila nero in de kir...”

Tolkca (emotionally): “You! It’s you! That flesh you wear is merely a mask hiding your treachery from yourself and those around you”.

Mekatus: “I hope you are not talking to me, Tolkca”.

Kaephon: “Stand out both of you. It is not way to behave”.

Tolkca: “You don’t realize that you are clad in lies and falsehoods but the hour draws near where you will throw off the shackles of false flesh and reveal your true face”.

Sakira: "Has he gone mad? What and who is he rambling on about?"

Tolkca: "That hour cannot be allowed to come to pass".

Natalon: " Tolcka, do as the Captain said and stand down. None of us wants to..."

(energy crackling in the air)

(Several bolter rounds, body falling)

(wind coming out of the Thunderhawk)

Sakira: "You killed him. Why didn't you shoot to wound or try to subdue him?"

Kaephon: "He was getting ready to unleash his witchery. With him out of the way of that psychosis I wasn't prepared to risk him bringing the Thunderhawk down".

Natalon: "You need not worry it, discharging a weapon inside such an enclosed space saw to that. (over vox) Eagle I, this is Eagle II. We've had an... incident on board and we are going have to put down".

Hearon: "What do you mean by incident, Eagle II?"

Natalon: "It was Tolkca, he went crazy and started...".

Mekatus (interrupting): "We've lost another engine..."

(Thunderhawk starting to fall)

Natalon: "It's no use. We are ditching, we are going to have to..."

(explosion)

(white noise and static)

Hearon: "Natalon, what happened? Natalon? Answer me..."

(white noise and static)

Episode 2

Natalon: "It's no use. We are ditching, we are going to have to..."

(vox signal lost, static)

Hearon: "Natalon, what happened? Natalon? Answer me..."

(silence)

Hearon: "Natalon! Kaephon! Is anybody reading this?"

Kaephon: "We are on the ground, the Thunderhawk is wrecked but there are no casualties... Apart from Tolcka".

Hearon: "We are beginning our ascent to the fortress monastery. Brother Natalon, can you get Eagle II airworthy again?"

Natalon: "Negative, the damage is too extensive. Kaephon and Sakira are extinguishing fires that have broken out and the engine assembly is nothing more than scrap".

Hearon: "Acknowledged, secure the crash site. We will pick you up on the way back. I don't envisage just being planet side for more than a few hours and, Kaephon..."

Kaephon: "Yes, master Hearon".

Hearon: "Be ready to give a full and frank account of how and why you saw fit to execute one of your own battle brothers".

Kaephon: "Yes, master Hearon".

(vox static over, silence)

Hearon: "Grief's Vengeance".

Female voice: "Aye, lord".

Hearon: "New standing orders. If you have not received word from me personally within twelve hours terran standard you are to virus bomb the surface of the planet. Understood?"

Flagship Captain: "Orders received and understood, lord".

Tarmoros: "Is that absolutely necessary, master?"

Hearon: "Hopefully not, but we are not even on the ground. Yet the Librarian Primus has already run mad and our First Captain has killed one of his own battle brothers. I'd say those were ill portents, wouldn't you, Chaplain Tarmoros?"

Tarmoros: "Ill portents indeed, Chapter Master. Ill portents indeed..."

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(Thunderhawk flying and landing)

(Footsteps, ramp opening)

Hearon: "Canoness Aleska, so good to see you again. Really there was no need for an honor guard to greet us".

Aleska: "It is good to see you too, Chapter Master. As you well know the Order of the Blazing Tears treats matters of ceremony with a greatest import. A squad of Seraphim has always met the Council of Eagles when they attended the Caucus of Aspirancy. Why should today be any different?"

Hearon: "My apologies, canoness. Recent events have left me on edge and I am keen to see the formalities over and done with and head back to Gathis".

Aleska: "Recent events?"

Hearon: "The Thunderhawk carrying the other members of the Council had to make an emergency landing. It will just be me and my brothers from the Reclusiam here who will be marking the ceremony".

Aleska: "Chaplain Tarmoros, I see you now wear the sigils of the Chief Reclusiarch. Chaplain Ratiko?"

Tarmoros: "Dead, five years ago at the hands of the greenskins. Though my mentor wrought bloody murder on the xenos scum as he went down".

Aleska: "I would have expected nothing less. He was a great man and an astute selector of aspirants. Though it does seem quite fitting that one of Tranzia's own should now be the one to conduct the ceremony".

Hearon: "Come, let us not tarry here. I am keen to meet those Chaplain Eifadon deems worthy of joining our ranks".

Aleska: "As you wish. Sister Jearna, please escort Master Hearon and his brothers to the chapel".

Jearna: "Of course, canoness".

(footsteps)

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Hearon: "Chaplain Eifadon, I trust everything is in order".

Eifadon: "It is, Master Hearon. We have an exceptional crop of aspirants this time. In no small part thanks to Drill Abbot Kimanski here".

Hearon: "Is that right?"

Kimanski : "Oh, yes, my lord. I am sure this particular group will surprise you".

Hearon: "I admire your confidence, Drill Abbot. Come, it is time we got this Caucus under way".

(footsteps)

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Hearon: "It is no secret that the Doom Eagles are a chapter forged in the fires of grief. Ten thousand years ago over the body of the God-Emperor Tulian Aquila swore an oath that wherever humanity faced peril at its gravest, wherever a mankind stood upon the precipices, we would be there. That we would never again delay in bringing aid to those who need it most. In the intervening years that is what the chapter has striven to do. Where humanity's light has come closest to being extinguished, we were there. A beacon of hope to light the way forward in these darkest of days. Just as we were on Tranzia some three thousand years ago. In the annals of our chapter we call it the Annihilation, such was our absolute fury in purging this world of the vile xenos. But I know that you, the inhabitants of this world, give it a different name. The Great Extinction. That day when we descended from the heavens to cleanse the Eldar from this world, mankind had disappeared from the face of Tranzia. In the days that followed our reconquest of this world humanity once more prospered and the flow of minerals from your mines became a tide supplying forge worlds all across the Imperium. Under the watch of the Doom Eagles and the Order of the Blazing Tears this world has thrived and now where once we came to claim Tranzia in the name of the Emperor, instead we come to claim fresh recruits to serve in the Reclusiam of our chapter. Where this planet has known woe on an unimaginable scale, you, the orphan sons of Tranzia, have experienced it on a personal level, making you the ideal candidates for the role of Chaplain within the Doom Eagles. As we serve you, in turn you shall..." (unable to finish)

Voice from the crowd (crying) : "Lies! For the Greater Good!"

(numerous laser beams, crowd crying)

(bolter rounds coming in response)

(massacre)

Hearon: "How? How could this have happened?"

(Chapter Master falling wounded)

Tarmoros: "Master Hearon! Apothecary Sakira, get to the fortress monastery now! Chapter Master Hearon is down".

Episode 3

(fires burning)

Tarmoros (over vox): " Apothecary Sakira, get to the fortress monastery now! Chapter Master Hearon is down".

(vox interference)

Sakira: "Hearon is down".

Mekatus: "Down? What happened?"

Kaephon: "What does it matter? Clearly they are under attack, we must get to the fortress-monastery. Natalon, get this mess of the Thunderhawk into the air now".

Natalon: "The engines are ruined (kicking on the craft). I'll never get us airborne in time".

(sound of another aircraft)

Sakira: "We've got company".

(laser beams and bolter rounds)

Kaephon: "Tau! It's an ambush".

Mekatus: "Ready yourselves, there are more of them coming".

Kaephon: "Return fire, bring them down".

Sakira: "But the Chapter Master? You heard Tarmoros..."

Natalon: "You'll never make it on foot with those xenos scum out there. It's suicide".

Mekatus: "We'll have to take them down first. They are coming back round. They intend to finish us off".

Kaephon: "Not if I can help it. Yeah!"

(heavy bolter rounds)

(Tau vehicle falling down and exploding)

Mekatus: "It's no good, there are too many of them".

(heavy bolter rounds)

Kaephon: "It's Natalon, he is using the Thunderhawk's weapons".

Sakira: "I only hope it's enough".

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(sounds of rebellion, gunshots in the air, crowd crying out)

Kimanski : "Chaplain Eifadon, get him to safety, now!"

Eifadon: "The monastery... He'll be safe in there until apothecary Sakira arrives".

Aleska (in the distance): "Seraphim, cover their retreat!"

(numerous gunshots)

One of the Seraphim (crying): "RUN!"

Kimanski : "I do not understand how this could have happened. How can I not have seen such insurrection bringing right beneath my nose!"

Tarmoros: "The ways of the enemies are insidious, Drill Abbot".

Eifadon: "It's Sakira. Natalon must have managed to get them airborne".

(vehicle flying above)

Tarmoros: "No, that's a Tau vessel!"

Kimanski : "In the name of the Emperor!"

Tarmoros: "They'd been lying here and waiting, biding their time until the aspirants were gathered for the Caucus in order to mount their rebellion. This is an invasion. Canoness, master your forces. Eifadon! The Master".

Eifadon: "Yes, brother".

Kimanski : "Quickly, I will show you the way"

(Hearon suffering from wounds)

(running away footsteps, sounds of the unrest)

(flying vessel and tons of laser beams)

Voices in the crowd: "For the Greater Good!"

(rebellions crying in pain and dying)

Tarmoros: "There are more of them. There in the distance. They are ready to work to the assumption that the apothecary is not going to make it".

Aleska: "Then what of Master Hearon?"

Tarmoros: "Eifadon will do all he can. I fear you and I have more pressing concerns".

Aleska: "Sister Jearna, send word! Your battle sisters are needed, the fortress must be defended. Tranzia will not fall into xenos hands again".

Jearna: "Yes, Canoness".

Tarmoros: "Here they come".

(vessels flying and shooting overhead)

Aleska: "Seraphim!"

Tarmoros: "All back, take cover! There are too many of them to engage out here in the open".

Aleska: "We have heavy weapons emplacements in the fortress".

Tarmoros: "Come then quickly, we are going to need them".

(running footsteps)

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(laser beams and bolter rounds)

Kaephon: "They keep coming".

Mekatus: "Why are they here? I have never seen an incursion so deep into Imperial space. Surely there must be easier targets out on the rim".

Sakira: "There must be something here they want, something particular about Tranzia".

Mekatus: "The fortress monastery or perhaps it has something to do with what happened to Tolcka".

(Kaephon shooting)

Sakira: "Fine shot, First Captain!"

Kaephon: "It's only got an engine, it won't keep them quiet for long. We are a sitting target".

Sakira: "We need to spread out, take up positions around the Thunderhawk, draw their fire away while Natalon hits them with heavy weapons".

Kaephon: "Agreed".

Mekatus: "Fight well, my brothers".

(running footsteps)

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(white noise)

Natalon: "Grief's Vengeance, this is Eagle II. Are you receiving? Shipmaster, can you hear me? This is Natalon requesting reinforcements. We are under attack. Master Hearon is down"

(zipping and hammering sounds)

Natalon: "Hm... Oh... Not damaged. What's the matter with the signal then? Grief's Vengeance, this is a request for urgent support".

(Natalon hammering the vox transmitter, white noise)

(approaching footsteps)

Natalon: "Oh, it's you. I've been trying to get through to the battle barge but something or someone must be jamming the signal. Man the gun for a moment while I take a look at the transmitter".

(bolter shot, blood, something falling)

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(flying vessels and bolter rounds)

Kaephon: "Natalon! (shooting) Natalon! Damn it. (running) Mekatus, Sakira!"

Mekatus (in the distance): "Here, brother".

Kaephon: "Oh! In the name of the Emperor".

(approaching footsteps)

Mekatus: "What is it, Kaephon?"

Kaephon: "In here quickly! Apothecary!"

Mekatus: "Are you hit?"

Kaephon: "No, it's Natalon".

Sakira: "Stand back, let me take a... (approaching) No, it's too late. He is dead".

Kaephon: "Dead?"

Mekatus: "I'll make those damn xenos pay for this".

Sakira: "No, brother, he's been executed. Someone put a bolter round in the back of his skull".

Episode 4

(weird silence)

Kaephon: "Oh! In the name of the Emperor".

Mekatus: "What is it, Kaephon?"

Kaephon: "In here quickly! Apothecary!"

(approaching footsteps)

Mekatus: "Are you hit?"

Kaephon: "No, it's Natalon".

Sakira: "Stand back, let me take a... (approaching) No, it's too late. He is dead".

Kaephon: "Dead?"

Mekatus: "I'll make those damn xenos pay for this".

Sakira: "No, brother, he's been executed. Someone put a bolter round in the back of his skull".

Mekatus: "A bolter round? Then who?"

Sakira: "Let us avoid jumping to any hasty conclusions, brother. This bears further investigation. Things on Tranzia are not as they seem".

Kaephon: "There is no time for further investigation, not now at least. Remember, brothers, we are under attack".

Mekatus: "You seem all too easy with the death of two of our most hallowed brothers on this ill-fated planet fall, Kaephon".

Kaephon: "Not easy, brother, simply practical. If we do not act soon, we too will be not but blasted corpses and then where will Sakira's investigation be?"

Sakira: "Oh... He is right, Mekatus".

Tarmoros (over vox): "Brother Sakira..."

Sakira: "Chaplain!"

Tarmoros (over vox): "Report your position, Apothecary".

Sakira: "Kaephon, Mekatus and I remain with the shell of our downed Thunderhawk. We are harried by enemy flyers, the situation is perilous".

Tarmoros (over vox): "And Natalon, how long before he can get you airborne again?"

Sakira: "Natalon is dead, killed by a bolter round to the head".

Tarmoros (over vox, shocked): "A bolter round? Questions will have to be answered, Apothecary, but they can wait. Master Hearon cannot, get here now any way you can".

(white noise)

Mekatus: "We'll have to break cover and go on foot".

Sakira: "But that's tantamount to suicide".

Mekatus: "What choice do we have? Master Hearon is in dire need of your ministrations and by the sound of it the fortress monastery itself is under attack".

Kaephon: "Mekatus, can you lead the way?"

Mekatus: "I can".

Kaephon: "And I will remain here and cover you. I can man the Thunderhawk's heavy bolters to keep the enemies off your backs".

Sakira: "Kaephon, I will not allow another of our number to die".

Kaephon: "I have no intention of dying, brother. Now go! Master Hearon needs your help and Tarmoros - your strength of arms".

Sakira: "Until later then, brother".

(running footsteps)

Kaephon: "Right... Oh, what the hell did you do to operate this thing, Natalon?"

(flying vessel, bolter rounds)

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(foosteps)

Mekatus: "Quickly, we must make haste, keep to the shadows by this overhang. We don't know how many of those damn xenos are crawling over the area. If we are spotted, they'll call in flyers to pick us out".

Sakira: "I still cannot fathom how we could have fallen so easily to such an ambush?"

Mekatus: "There's more to this than it is at first apparent, Apothecary. Mark my words".

Sakira: "You refer to the deaths of both Tolcka and Natalon..."

Mekatus: "Indeed".

(voices in the distance)

Mekatus: "Be on your guards, Sakira".

Sakira: "Because of the humans?"

Mekatus: "Because I fear there are traitors in our midst".

Sakira: "The xenos flyers do not fire upon the aspirants".

Mekatus: "I've noticed".

(laser beam)

Mekatus: "Full back, they must have seen us".

Sakira: "It's the humans who are firing on us".

Mekatus: "The aspirants are in league with the Tau. Something or someone has turned their minds against us".

Sakira: "And they have betrayed us and must be purged".

Mekatus: "Do not forget our purpose, Apothecary. Tarmoros awaits us as does the master".

Sakira: "And let us waste no more time skulking in the shadows and make haste. I believe it is time for a more direct approach".

Mekatus: "As you wish".

(two Space Marines charging)

Mekatus: "For the Emperor!"

(numerous bolter rounds and laser beams)

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Voices (muttering): "Di an nev, di an kim..."

Eifadon: "The master's sleep is restless. His mind is troubled".

Kimanski : "Will he live?"

Eifadon: "His wounds do not appear to be mortal and yet he does not wake. I fear he finds himself subject to an attack of an altogether more insidious kind".

Kimanski : "The ways of the xenos are not to be fathomed".

(approaching running footsteps)

Eifadon: "Hm... Tarmoros, what news?"

Tarmoros: "The Canoness and her sisters are keeping the Tau forces at bay for now (catching his breath after a long run). I've been unable to reach Grief's Vengeance to request reinforcements. Either something is blocking our transmissions or the barge itself is under attack and unable to respond".

Eifadon: "I fear this invasion is as comprehensive as it is unexpected. The planning is meticulous. The Tau have lain in wait and bided their time on Tranzia. How could the Canoness have allowed such insurrection to brew?"

Tarmoros: "Questions for another time, brother".

(doors opening, bolter rounds)

Tarmoros: "Mekatus? Sakira? You are wounded..."

Sakira: "Just by the grace... Clear a space, allow me to examine Master Hearon".

Eifadon: "He has not stirred although I fear his mind is troubled".

Sakira: "Master Hearon? (approaching) Master? Hm... The wound to his temple will heal. He is badly burnt but the shot did not puncture his skull".

Eifadon: "His Sus-an membrane then?"

Sakira: "This is no Sus-anic coma, Chaplain".

Tarmoros: "Then what?"

Sakira: "I do not know... Something, some force is influencing his mind. He should have woken and yet he remains unconscious".

Tarmoros: "The xenos?"

Sakira: "Or whoever else is at work on Tranzia".

Tarmoros: "What are you getting at, Apothecary?"

Sakira: "A traitor, Tarmoros. We cannot ignore that the xenos must have been aided in the planning and execution of such an audacious attack. The deaths of both Tolcka and Natalon do not make sense. Mekatus believes... Mekatus?"

Eifadon: "He is gone".

Tarmoros (over vox): "Mekatus, do you read me?"

(white noise)

Tarmoros (over vox): "Mekatus! He does not answer".

Eifadon: "You don't think?"

Sakira: "No, I refuse to believe..."

Tarmoros: "Then where has he gone? Why does he not answer? He was at the scene of both Tolcka's and Natalon's deaths. Why is he not here to give account of himself?"

Eifadon: "If you are right, brother Sakira, and there is indeed a traitor in our midst, then I fear that by disappearing in such a way Mekatus has as good as admitted his guilt".

Episode 5

Written by Gav Thorpe

Eifadon: "Could the xenos jamming signal be preventing Mekatus's reply?"

Tarmoros: "Short range transmissions appear to be unaffected. Mekatus's silence is intentional, I fear. We must presume that his sudden departure is equally suspicious".

Sakira: "To what end? If he sought to wreak further harm, would he not be better placed remaining inside the fortress-monastery?"

Eifadon: "I suspect he returns to his Tau conspirators to receive fresh orders. Be alert for further treachery. We cannot trust anyone".

Tarmoros: "Whatever the cause for Mekatus's absence we must attend to the defense of the fortress".

Sakira: "I will remain to monitor the condition of the Chapter Master and work with the local sister-hospitallers for treatment of casualties".

Tarmoros: "This will be no battle of attrition. If we cannot establish contact with Grief's Vengeance in the next few hours everything on this planet is going to be annihilated".

Sakira: "Perhaps, it would be better if we secured transportation back to orbit to remove the Chapter Master from danger?"

Eifadon: "Not yet, this battle is far from lost. We will not surrender this world meekly nor leave its defense to the efforts of others".

Tarmoros: "Rightly said, come! Let us join the fight!"

(leaving footsteps)

Sakira: "Master Hearon, come back to us. We need your guidance and your strength more than ever".

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(footsteps)

Mekatus: "Activate vox-record. Command encryption registered to life sign monitor. Terminus transmission activate (beeping sound). This is the record of Captain Mekatus. If you are receiving this signal I have been slain fulfilling my duty. The xenos influence on this world has extended far. Chapter security has been compromised but I leave it to the others to puzzle out that particular riddle. The enemy jamming signal proves, they know our communication protocols and I am operating radio silent to prevent detection of my position. The initial attack seems to be exclusively composed of turncoat aspirants of the Ecclesiarchy clergy. As yet the Tau have not committed in strength, but auspex signals show they are mastering to join the offensive. Standard grid nomenclature, fortress-monastery designated alpha grid. Main xenos advance on delta-alpha axis. I am circumnavigating their positions to return to Kaephon".

(flying vessel)

Mekatus: "Enemy scout skimmer, moving to intercept".

(Mekatus running, four bolter shots, skimmer falling and exploding)

Mekatus: "The enemy will investigate the loss of their patrol vehicle, rapid relocation".

(running footsteps)

* * *

(vessels flying, numerous bolter rounds, laser beams)

Mekatus: "I return to the crash site. Thunderhawk is still operational, but under heavy fire. I can see the smoke from three downed aircraft. Kaephon accounts well for himself. Correction, anti-air fire pattern too predictable. I presume Kaephon has set the Thunderhawk machine's spirit to self-defense mode. He may be dead, approaching closer for confirmation".

(running footsteps, vessels flying overhead)

Mekatus: "Infra scan indicates that Kaephon has departed the Thunderhawk. No life signals, but I cannot see a body inside as either.

Current whereabouts unknown. If he is heading for the fortress-monastery, he will face stiff resistance. The bulk of the Tau force is between this location and our battle-brothers. I am moving for closer observation of the enemy".

(running footsteps)

Mekatus: "On a personal note I hope that Kaephon's absence is not indicative of a more sinister motive, but the possibility cannot be discounted. The circumstances of Tolcka's death fill me with unease and I hope that no further ill befalls my brothers before I can return to them and brew willing the battle goes well for them".

(running footsteps)

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Mekatus: "The focus of the xenos is set upon the fortress-monastery making infiltration of their lines straightforward. No resistance encountered as yet. The Tau have mastered armor, as well as infantry indicating a landing some time ago. The corruption of the aspirants shows a high degree of preparedness for the invasion, though the xenos force does not appear sizable. They seek to obtain through subterfuge what they cannot conquer by brute force of arms. They will not succeed".

(running footsteps)

Mekatus: "Security provision appears light. Vantage points at grid sigma attained. I count seven transports and tanks, anti-grav powered and well armed. Estimate 70+ infantry and six battle-suites".

(beeping sounds)

Mekatus: "Registering high level of comm-traffic in this location, but unable to decrypt. Assume, command channels, further evidence that the jamming field is attuned solely to our vox net. Only a brother of the Chapter would be able to pass on such information. The traitor will be made to pay for such coldhearted deceit. I pray I will be the one to administer the punishment. The enemy leader must be close at hand. I am moving in to investigate. If the Emperor wills it, a bombardment from Grief's Vengeance will end this invasion abruptly. Enemy vox traffic should mask a signal from this location".

Mekatus (over vox): "Grief's Vengeance, can you hear me? Dark Eagle, priority transmission"

(white noise)

Mekatus: "Jamming signal is still operational this far from the fortress-monastery. It must have a source in the wilderness. Locating it will be my next mission".

(running footsteps)

Mekatus: "Grid sigma four, significant enemy forces converging on this position. The Tau appear to be adopting a defensive posture. Several non-offensive vehicles creating earthworks and I can see prefabricated emplacements. Security is still light. Definitely a temporary headquarters, some form of leadership council in session. Four individuals on infra scan, unable to... Wait! Yes... The Emperor provides. Positive identification of enemy commander. Tau female, other officer class individuals displaying deferential behavior. Warrior caste, no sign of so called Ethereals. It seems this is a purely military campaign"

(Tau speaking in the distance)

Mekatus: "Audio senses at full range, unable to discern any meaning.... Enemy foot patrol: five strong, carbine armaments, moderate personal armor. Vector will bring them upon my position, too late to relocate. Cameleoline must suffice".

(Mekatus breathing hard, hearts beating)

Tau Patrol (calmly): "Do'let raa".

(Tau passing by)

Tau Patrol (calmly): "Do'la pa".

Tau Patrol (calmly): "Nal'hin osa".

(Tau patrol leaving)

Mekatus: "Turn position is untenable, vidlocking visual identification of Tau commander. If anyone on this planet has the information we seek, it is her".

Tau Patrol (angrily): " Ve'ro Sha! Ve'ro Sha!"

(several laser beams)

Mekatus: "Emperor's woe, infiltration detected. My brothers must learn of what passes here".

(bolter sounds in response)

Mekatus: "I hope the Emperor wills that I deliver the message myself".
(laser beam, vessel flying)

Episode 6

Written by Nick Kyme

(distant chants, approaching footsteps)

Eifadon: "I should have seen this, realized the perfidy of the xenos in our ranks and now Mekatus is a traitor... I was so blind. Tell me, blessed Emperor, what must I do? What that you were not a statue in this cold Reclusiam chamber? What that you could speak?"

(something falling)

Eifadon: "Speak, I beseech you!"

(weird voices muttering in the distance)

Eifadon: "What is this devilry?"

Tarmoros (over vox): "Chaplain Eifadon? It is Tarmoros, please answer".

Eifadon: "Brother Chaplain, are we breached?"

Tarmoros (over vox): "Not yet, but the traitors regroup even as Canoness Aleska's troops engage them at the walls. I have other news".

Eifadon: "Ave Imperator! Then speak it!"

Tarmoros (over vox): "Meet us in the aquila hall immediately".

Eifadon: "Us?"

Tarmoros (over vox): "Yes, Mekatus has returned".

(white noise)

* * *

Eifadon (angrily): "Where is he? Where is Mekatus?"

Mekatus: "I am here, brothers".

Tarmoros: "We thought you..."

Mekatus: "A traitor, Chaplain Tarmoros?"

Eifadon (angrily): "Then explain your vox silence, Captain".

(Mekatus groaning from paining)

Sakira: "He is wounded".

Mekatus: "It is just a flesh wound, Apothecary, and as for my silence, Chaplain Eifadon, the xenos are jamming our vox. We are indeed betrayed".

Eifadon: "But not by you... it seems. Apologies, brother Captain"

Mekatus (suffering from pain): "None needed, but listen. I have located the Tau commander, defenses are minimal. With a small strike force we can capture her..."

Eifadon: "And cripple the xenos threat. Tarmoros, our brother Captain is clearly too wounded to lead this mission. Let me do it and wash my mistakes clean with enemy blood".

Tarmoros: "Very well, Eifadon. Mekatus will go to the Apothecarion. You will lead the attack assuaging your guilt if you can".

Eifadon: "A stern interrogation could reveal the traitor. An audacious snatch mission, if you will. Forces should be small, fast".

Tarmoros: "Agreed, I'll petition Canoness Aleska for a squad of her Seraphim".

Eifadon: "Our assault marines would be preferable, but the Seraphim are still fierce warriors".

Tarmoros: "It's settled then. Good hunting, brother Chaplain. Glory to the Emperor!"

All Marines: "Glory to the Emperor!"

* * *

Tarmoros (in the distance): " Glory to the Emperor!"

All Marines (in the distance): "Glory to the Emperor!"

(crawling footsteps, then someone running)

(hatch opening)

(weird voices muttering in the distance)

Voice: "I hear you! I obey you!"

(beeping sound, white noise)

Machine voice: "Transmission code set".

Tau (over vox): "Tau'Va, the Gue'la are hard pressed. Your Gue'vesa have proven useful".

Voice (over vox): " Tau'Va, Sha'Sell, I have a message. O'Sha Kir is in danger".

(white noise)

* * *

Eifadon: "There, the Tau compound that Mekatus has spoken of".

Jearna: "Only lightly guarded. Chaplain Eifadon, we should break cover now and attack".

Eifadon: "Agreed, sister Jearna. Your Canoness extolled your zeal and combat prowess, I see she was not exaggerating".

Jearna: "Xenos traitors defiled Tranzia. It is my duty to expunge them. Your wings, Chaplain Eifadon..."

Eifadon: "Yes..."

Jearna: "It is the finest jump pack I have ever seen. Acquillis Verian with the spoke fluting if I am not mistaken".

Eifadon: "I wear it to honor the fallen".

Jearna: "Then let us take flight and do just that".

(hatch opening, Eifadon and Seraphim jumping down)

(bolter rounds)

Eifadon: "Glory and death!"

(someone crying in pain)

Jearna: "Oh, xenos filth".

Eifadon: "Quickly, breach those doors".

Jearna: "Sister Evangeline, the melta bombs

Evangeline: "At once, my sister superior".

(bombs put on the door)

Jearna: "Wait! What is that?"

Eifadon: "A pair of hidden railguns, take cover!"

(numerous railgun shots, Evangeline gasping in pain)

Jearna: "Evangeline!"

Eifadon: "She's dead, nothing you can do!"

Jearna: "We are all dead if we stay here. Full back!"

Eifadon: "The mission... I must... Wait! The melta bombs are engaged. If I can just activate them".

Jearna: "Impossible, you'd be cut in half. We must abort".

Eifadon: "Negative, an incendiary would do it. Bring the gate and the guns down in one. How many grenades are you carrying, sister?"

Jearna: "This is madness".

Eifadon: "No, it is glorious sacrifice. You will capture the Tau commander".

Jearna: "As the Emperor will it. Here, that's all the grenades I have".

Eifadon: "It will suffice. Natalon, this jump-pack of yours should best guide me to glory".

(laser beams, Eifadon flying towards the gates)

(explosion, wreckage falling around)

Jearna: "Throne, he did it! The way is open... Seraphim, attack!"

Seraphim (crying): "For the Emperor!"

(gunshots)

* * *

(footsteps)

Jearna (calmly): "Xenos, I would not advise that. Put the weapon down, now!"

(weapon falling down)

Tau Commander: "Gue'la".

Jearna: "You are coming with me, commander. Our interrogators would have a word".

Benedictis: "My superior.."

Jearna: "What is it, sister Benedictis?"

Benedictis: "I have found something in the rubble... Here".

Jearna: "It's a hololith projector. Someone tried to send a warning. Throne..."

Benedictis: "Superior?"

Jearna: "We must return to the monastery immediately. I know who the traitor in our ranks is".

Episode 7

Written by Andy Smillie

(door opening)

(Tau hanging in chains and groaning from suffer)

(entering footsteps)

Tarmoros: "Sister Aleska..."

Aleska: "Chaplain Tarmoros... I see you have yet to begin"

Tarmoros: "You wish to observe?"

Aleska: "I do. The ability of those of your order to extract information from prisoners is whispered to be beyond compare. It is said that you wield the tools of torture with an artisan's grace. I would not forego this opportunity to witness such an occasion".

Tarmoros: "It is more than that, is it not, sister? You wish to see the xenos suffer".

Aleska (hesitating): "I...".

Tarmoros: "Do not be ashamed of your hatred, sister. It is a powerful ally".

Aleska: "My apologies. you are correct, Chaplain. I would see this filth suffer for the misery inflicted here".

Tarmoros: "Very well, but do not interfere".

Aleska: "On my honor, brother Chaplain".

(Aleska stepping back)

(Tarmoros throwing water at the prisoner)

Tarmoros: "Awaken!"

(Tau commander coughing)

Tarmoros: "Why have you come here, xenos?"

(silence)

Tarmoros: "By blade or by fire, xenos, I will have your testimony".

(Chaplain unsheathing the blade, silence)

Tarmoros: "Very well..."

(Chaplain carving a wound, Tau crying from pain)

Aleska: "Why do you bother, Chaplain? She cannot understand you".

Tarmoros: "Oh, but she can... Can't you, alien? You have conspired with human traitors, you know our tongue. Shall I ignite the brazier?"

O'Sha Kir: "I am O'Sha Kir".

Tarmoros (angrily): "I didn't ask for your name, xenos".

(Chaplain punching Tau several times in the face, Tau crying from pain)

Tarmoros: "Answer only the questions I ask of you".

O'Sha Kir: "And then what? You will kill me when you have your answers?"

Tarmoros: "No, if you answer my questions I will not take your life, but if you do not... Oh...".

(Tarmoros sharpening blades by one another)

Tarmoros: "... I will bleed you until your veins run empty and scorch the flesh from your bones before your screams are finished echoing around this chamber".

(Tarmoros almost leaving the chamber)

O'Sha Kir: "Wait! I came here in conquest, to deliver this planet to the Empire".

Tarmoros: "Do not lie to me, xenos!"

(Chaplain punching Tau several times in the face again)

Tarmoros: "Tranzia is well beyond the fringes of your upstart empire. Maintaining a foothold here would be untenable".

O'Sha Kir: "By the Aun, it is the truth".

Tarmoros: "Only a fool or arrogant cur driven by blind ambition would seek such risky glory. Which are you, Tau?"

O'Sha Kir: "I am neither. I sought only to take from you the way you have taken from me".

Tarmoros: "Explain yourself or I will bleed you for your insolence".

O'Sha Kir: "Why do you feign ignorance, Space Marine? It serves you no purpose. I have seen the deeds of your vile kindred firsthand".

(Chaplain punching Tau, chains clinging)

Tarmoros: "Do not test me again".

O'Sha Kir: "Your actions, damn you, Space Marine. You are indeed the cruel butchers I remember. When I was but a child, warriors in your dark battleplate descended upon my homeworld without mercy. My kin was slain, slaughtered as they fled the carnage. I looked on helplessly as your kind made banners of their flesh and trophies of their bones".

Tarmoros: "No loyal servant of the Emperor would wage war in such a debased manner".

O'Sha Kir: "And yet you torture me in this barbaric way".

Tarmoros: "No, you speak of the Arch Enemy. I would no sooner call them brother than you. Your hatred of them is nothing compared to the righteous fire that burns in my veins. No... You are mistaken".

O'Sha Kir: "No, El'metan identified you from set records. He uncovered a transmission. You have come here to celebrate your victory over my world".

Tarmoros: "If that were true why would I not simply have killed you?"

(Chaplain torturing Tau with the flame, Tau moaning)

O'Sha Kir: "I cannot guess at the motivation behind your cruelty".

(another flamer at work, Tau groaning)

Tarmoros: "Woe betide the fool who accuses my brothers of barbarism without just cause. Woe betide the fool who brings war to my home".

O'Sha Kir (suffering, hardly speaking): "My proof was lost when El'metan's pathfinder team were ambushed returning from the Hall of Eternal Record, but it is of no consequence. El'metan has served under me for many Tau'cyr. His word is proof enough".

Tarmoros: "You are a fool. Your thirst for revenge has allowed you to be manipulated. Whatever your minion is up to I doubt it has anything to do with your honor or the Greater Good of your race".

O'Sha Kir: "I...".

Tarmoros (interrupting): "We are done here".

(hatch opening, Tarmoros leaving the chamber)

O'Sha Kir: "You said that you would not kill me".

Tarmoros: "You are correct, xenos. I said that I would not kill you and I did not lie. But I did not promise to let you live".

O'Sha Kir: "Please, I have done as you asked. Have you no honor?"

Aleska: "Honor? Do not speak to me of honor, xenos! You and your heathen kind coerced the weak-willed and innocent into fighting your battles for you. You know nothing of honor".

O'Sha Kir: "At least unshackle me, afford me a warrior's death. Allow me to die on my feet".

Aleska: "You are no more than a blight upon the stars, xenos, a gross insult to the purity of mankind. I shall afford you no such dignity".

O'Sha Kir: "My life for the Aun, my honor of the Great... (unable to finish)"

(gunshot, shell falling down)

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Tau Commander: "The pathfinders were accurate in their appraisal. The Gue'vesa's machine slaves have made swift progress. We must secure this dig site. Shas'ui, kill them quickly. We have much work still to do".

Tau Warrior: "By the Aun it shall be done, commander".

(running footsteps)

* * *

Amanter: "Trespassers, no! Wait! There is no need for violence! Our mission is one of these... " (unable to finish)

(several laser beams)

Tau Warrior: "The way is clear, commander".

Tau Commander: "Shas'ui, call your team back and secure the approach. Let none pass, stall them with your lives if you must. It is for the Greater Good that we deny the Gue'vesa their prize".

Tau Warrior: "On my honor it shall be so".

Tau Commander: " Fio'Fera, it is time for you and the Earth caste to earn their place. Retrieve the Gue'vesa's tools and finish what they have begun".

Fio'Fera: "As you will, commander".

(leaving footsteps)

(Amanter groaning from pain)

Tau Commander: "You dare to lay your hands on me, machine filth?"

Amanter (moaning and hardly speaking): "Please... We... must... finish the Omnissiah's work".

Tau Commander: "Have the grace to accept your fate and die quietly, wretch".

Amanter (begging): "Please..."

(laser beam)

(Amanter groaning)

Episode 8

Written by C.Z. Dunn

(pair of footsteps)

Tarmoros: "And you are absolutely certain that the hololith projector belongs to Drill Abbot Kimanski , Canoness Aleska?"

Aleska: "I would stake my life and those of my sisters on it, Chaplain Tarmoros. It is identical to the device he claims he uses to communicate with his Ecclesiarchy masters on Belasarial III. Finding it among the corpses of the Tau, I'd hazard he was using this to communicate with different masters altogether".

Tarmoros: "I trust I can leave this matter in your hands. With the removal of the Tau commander the enemy forces are in disarray and the tide of battle turns in our favor. My brothers and I..."

Kaephon (interrupting): "That traitor has the blood of two of our brothers on his hands. The task of executing him will fall to me as First Captain. Canoness Aleska may accompany me but it will be me who pulls the trigger".

Tarmoros: "Kaephon? How did you..."

Kaephon: "Mekatus informed me just before he and sister Jearna left the monastery to find the source of the jamming signal. Come, sisters, let us no terry here while the agent of the xenos is still at liberty".

(leaving footsteps)

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(whispering voices)

Voice: "Free... Flee... They've come for you..."

(whispering voices)

* * *

Mekatus: "With the greatest of respect, sister Jearna, I really would prefer to do this on my own".

Jearna: "Please, Scout Captain, I looked on helplessly earlier as one of your brothers lay down his life to rid this world of these abominations. For my own personal honor and that of my Order I must be allowed to make reparation".

Mekatus: "Very well, but stay close and follow in my footsteps. The Tau are not above laying booby-traps".

(walking footsteps)

Mekatus: "Get down! Remain silent!"

(Tau voices in the distance)

Mekatus: "On my mark".

One of the Tau (in the distance): "Do'len Ra".

Mekatus: "Now!"

(bolter rounds)

One of the Tau (dying in the distance): "Tal'va".

Jearna: "Mekatus! Target the Fire Warriors. They've a skimmer teammate".

(another Tau crying)

Jearna (throwing a grenade and groaning): "Get down!"

(explosion, dust falling down)

Mekatus: "Excellently done, sister. A tactic worthy of the Scouts I usually lead into battle".

Jearna: "I praise indeed, Scout Captain".

One of the Tau (moaning from pain): "Tal'va".

(finishing bolt round)

Jearna: "Huh, now, let us find the source of the jamming signal".

* * *

(three pairs of footsteps)

Aleska: "Going somewhere, Drill Abbot? I'd say from the size of that pack you are carrying that you aren't planning on returning any time soon".

Kimanski : "Please... That is... I..."

Aleska: "Save you groveling for your new alien masters, traitorous worm. Captain Kaephon here has a duty to perform".

Kaephon (readying the bolter , speaking grimly): "I do indeed, Canoness".

Aleska: "What is the meaning of this? Why are you pointing your bolter at me and not Kimanski ? He is the traitor".

Kaephon: "Traitor? Such an ugly word and one entirely dependent on your point of view".

(bolter round, Kaephon gasping)

Tarmoros: "From where I am standing I'd say the description fits".

Kaephon (breathing hard): "Tarmoros? How did you know?"

Tarmoros: "You must have been a fool, Kaephon. I still suspected Mekatus of being the traitor, so didn't share the information about the hololith projector with him. And besides Kimanski here couldn't have killed Natalon. He was here at the monastery when my battle brother was killed".

(several laser beams, Tarmoros gasping)

Kimanski : "No... But I did spent years turning your aspirants against you".

Aleska (shocked): "Both of you have turned from the Emperor's light and thrown in your lot with the xenos?"

(numerous bolter rounds)

Tarmoros: "Canoness, back down the corridor. Find cover!"

(Canoness running away)

Kimanski : "The plot was set in motion many years ago to ensure that the events occurring here on Tranzia came to pass".

Kaephon: "I no longer serve the Emperor, but neither do I follow the creed of the mewling upstart Tau. I serve a far greater master now".

(currents of bolter fire)

(energy crackling, sudden silence)

Tarmoros: "What does that mean? Kaephon, answer me, Emperor damn you!"

(approaching footsteps)

Aleska: "They are both gone... How can that be?"

Tarmoros: "One of them must have been carrying a portable teleporter. Whoever their new master is, has access to technology that far surpasses that of the Doom Eagles".

Aleska: "But where are they now?"

Tarmoros: "They could be anywhere on Tranzia".

* * *

(energy crackling, Kimanski and Kaephon emerging from the portal)

(Kaephon groaning from pain, almost vomiting)

(approaching footsteps)

Tau Commander: "You managed to escape then, but judging by that wound to your shoulder it was not without incident".

Kaephon: "That is none of your concern, xenos filth. Now let us prepare for the coming of the master".

(leaving footsteps)

Episode 9

Written by Gav Thorpe

(heart beating)

(voices whispering)

Voice (whispering): "Manethir, tol ne methur deloth. Dela nero indiki nar thrun fale".

Hearon: "The Emperor is my shield. I shall not be tempted. In death we are vindicated".

Voice (whispering): "Manethir, tol ne methur deloth. Dela nero indiki nar thrun fale".

Hearon: “My eyes are blind to deceit. My ears are deaf to temptation. My heart is cold to doubt. Death reprieves all guilt. May duty done I will pass on”.

Voice (whispering): “Manethir, tol ne methur deloth. Dela nero indiki nar thrun fale”.

Hearon: “I am the Emperor servant. My death is my final service, your sorceries will not save me”.

* * *

(laser beams, running footsteps)

(vessel flying overhead, explosions)

Tarmoros: “The deception of Kaephon and Kimanski bears foul fruit, Canoness. The Tau make their final move on the monastery”.

Aleska: “It is the Emperor cursed foe within that gives me the greater woe. Even if we prevail here what future can there be for Tranzia? This world is cursed, forsaken by the Emperor”.

Tarmoros: “And that is why the Doom Eagles desire it. We will fight to our last breaths to purge Tranzia of the xenos and their vile allies. More blood is being spilled upon the Emperor’s altar here and we will not forget”.

Aleska: “What news from your ship in orbit? Have you received any communication?”

(laser beam, Canoness moaning)

(numerous bolter rounds)

Tarmoros: “I commend your zeal, you slay without hesitation those that were but a few hours ago your followers”.

Aleska: “A generation lost to the perfidy of Kimanski . It is a mercy to kill them and free them from the taint that has been placed in their hearts. The betrayal is all the greater for them for they trusted in their teacher and know not the evil that they perpetrate”.

(footsteps)

(Tarmoros groaning and closing the hatch)

Aleska: “It is done. One module to seal in the inner sanctum and your Chapter Master will be secure. You didn’t answer to my question,

Chaplain. What word from your ship or Mekatus? I have received no message from Sister Jearna”.

Tarmoros: “My vox stays silent of word from both. Let us hope that they are able to breach the jamming signal and prevent the bombardment in time. I do not think I could bear the thought of my brothers destroying Tranzia even as we prevail below”.

* * *

(heart beating)

(voices whispering)

Hearon (mumbling): “Death is my brother... is my brother... Is death my brother? My brothers’ death? My brothers... They die... I must... must I die?”

Voice (whispering): “Hear me, son of the Emperor”.

Hearon: “The Emperor? No! The Emperor is not dead. The Emperor is not my brother, but my father. Can you hear me, father? Speak to me. Am I dead? Do my brothers die in vain for me?”

Voice (whispering): “Be strong, son of the Emperor. Hear my words”.

(tiny bells chanting)

* * *

(weird noises)

Jearna: “The Emperor favors us, the enemy is moving away”.

Mekatus: “Stealth brings its own fortune. Wait till moment and remain silent. The enemy have not yet not all departed”.

(footsteps)

(pause)

Mekatus: “Swiftly now, between those containers. The main headquarters appears unguarded”.

(running footsteps)

Jearna (breathing hard): “I do not understand why we have returned here. The jamming signal did not originate from this compound”.

Mekatus: “We could search for year and a day in the wilderness and not find it. We must secure an enemy communicator of some fashion, alter it to track the jamming signal”.

Jearna (breathing hard): “You suggest we use the bewitched Tau devices? Have you no thought for your soul?”

Mekatus: “A vox is just a vox. I think our souls will be safe. Come on, while the patrol is behind the gun embrasure”.

(running footsteps)

Mekatus: “There is nobody within. Keep watch while I retrieve what we need”.

Jearna (dissatisfied): “Oh, let him taint himself if he wishes. I will not touch the foul xenos tech. A hundred penances I will need to make just to cleanse my soul for being this close”.

(Mekatus returning)

(laser beams)

Jearna (happy to see Mekatus): “Oh, I see the lack of stealth has brought misfortune”.

(two bolter shots)

Mekatus: “I have what I need. Speed must now suffice where stealth failed. RUN!”

(both running away from Tau shooting recklessly)

* * *

(tiny bells chanting)

Voice (whispering): “Our words upon listening ears must fall like the gentle rain on the grassy hills of Nera Nashed Sha”.

Hearon: “The caller of death. Wait, it is not so! Voices from the deep, another - inside my mind?”

Voice (whispering): “Heed our voice, son of the Emperor, lord of the eagles that bring doom. Be not agitated. We are not your foes in this battle”.

Hearon (angrily): “Xenos curse, my mind is a fortress, my will – its walls. My faith – its towers”.

Voice (in pain): “Oh, such hatred... How can one live with such hatred in their spirit? What manner of ally must we make? Let not hate stun again for all shall fall to ruin if our warning is not heeded! Listen, master of the Doom Eagles, listen and know the truth”.

(voices whispering)

Episode 10

Written by Andy Smillie

(someone digging)

Fio'Fera: "El'Metan, we have done it. We have broken through. We have breached the tomb".

El'Metan: "This is Abbot Kimanski 's world. I would have him confirm your assessment, Fio'Fera".

(approaching footsteps)

Kimanski : "It is like Fio'Fera says, the digging is complete".

Fio'Fera: "With your blessing, commander, I shall inform the Aun".

El'Metan: "No, that will not be necessary".

Fio'Fera: "Commander?"

El'Metan: "The Greater Good is a concept too subtle, too vast for the Auns and their ignorance to grasp. This prize belongs to a greater visionary".

Fio'Fera: "I.... what..."

Kaephon: "Enough chatters, xenos. You have served your purpose".

(numerous bolter rounds)

(Tau crying in pain, Kaephon laughing)

El'Metan: "That was rash, Kaephon. The earth caste are strong laborers. They may yet have proved useful".

(something flying, several gunshots)

Kimanski : "We are under attack!"

El'Metan: "There, in the sky!"

Kaephon: "Seraphim! Take cover and return fire" (running away).

(numerous bolter rounds)

(Seraphim crying in pain)

Kaephon: "They die more easily than even your earth kindred, El'Metan".

(laser beam, another Seraphim dying)

El'Metan: "It seems their armor fares no better against my pulse rifle than yours would, Space Marine".

Kimanski : "This is the superior disengaging. Quickly, she must not escape! We cannot allow her to return with word of our endeavors"

(numerous bolter rounds)

Kaephon: "I am out of range. El'Metan, bring her down".

(laser beams)

El'Metan: "Curse the Auns, my power cell is depleted".

Kaephon: "No matter, we proceed as planned".

Kimanski : "What of the battle sisters?"

El'Metan: "If those wretched females survive the main attack, then we shall deal with them. Now hurry. There is no more time to waste".

(leaving footsteps)

El'Metan (surprised): "What is... This is no tomb... What alien craft is this?"

Kaephon: "It is only a vessel, Tau. It is a craftworld, the space born planet devised by the filthy Eldar, a xenos race even more wretched than your own".

Voices (whispering): "To enter our world is to leave yours behind, to walk with our souls is to abandon your own. You have been warned, trespasser".

Kaephon: "Your witch trickery will not deter us, xenos. We will not be denied our prize. Follow me!"

(leaving footsteps)

* * *

(torrents of gunfire)

Mekatus: "You are bleeding, sister".

Jearna: "As are you too. It seems neither of us escaped the compound unscathed".

Mekatus: "Yes, but the Emperor has not blessed you with the same powers of healing he has bestowed upon me".

(several bolter rounds)

Jearna (groaning): "It seems you are correct".

Mekatus: “Quickly, get behind that embankment”.

(Mekatus and Jearna running to take cover)

Jearna (groaning): “We cannot outrun them and we don’t have the supplies for a protracted fight”.

Mekatus: “Agreed. How many grenades do you have, sister?”

Jearna: “Ah, two fragmentation grenades and a crack explosive. You have a plan?”

Mekatus: “Perhaps, pass me the grenades”.

Jearna: “Captain?”

Mekatus: “The Tau have no stomach for close quarter fighting. If I get among them they will pull back in an effort to gain distance. We can use the respite to slip away”.

Jearna: “And the grenades?”

Mekatus: “Even a Space Marine’s constitution has its limits, sister. I cannot advance headlong into their guns. I will use the grenades to create the dust cloud to cover my advance (taking a breath). Wait here!”

(Mekatus running away, laser beams)

* * *

(laser beams and gunfire)

Tarmoros: “Pull back! Sister Aleska, retreat to the Medicae!”

Aleska: “Aye, Chaplain!”

Tarmoros: “Quickly, seal the chamber”.

(Aleksa groaning, hatch closing)

Aleska: “The blast door will not hold long, Chaplain”.

Tarmoros: “Then we must make ready. Apothecary Sakira, we will need you when the door collapses”.

Sakira: “What of Hearon? Our master has yet to awaken”.

Tarmoros: “I fear, brother, that we may not be able to buy him any more time”.

Sakira: “I understand! I will tend to him for as long as I am able”.

(laser beams behind the door)

Aleska: “It has been an honor to stand with you, Chaplain”.

Tarmoros: "The fight is not over, Canoness. Remember, the Emperor protects those who protect themselves".

(Tarmoros changing the bolter magazine)

(explosion, blast door collapsing)

(crowd crying out loud)

Aleska: "Here they come!"

(laser beams, bolter rounds)

Tarmoros: "Heretic filth!"

(numerous aspirants dying)

Aleska: "Reloading!"

Tarmoros: "My bolter is empty".

Aleska: "I am out!"

Sakira: "This is my last magazine".

(bolter rounds)

Tarmoros: "Ready your blades! If we are to die here we will do so soaked in the blood of the foe".

(numerous bolter rounds)

Tarmoros: "Sakira?"

Sakira: "It was not I, brother".

Tarmoros: "Then who?"

Hearon: "I thought you could use the help".

Tarmoros: "Commander Hearon, thank the Throne?"

Hearon: "There will be time for prayer, Chaplain. First, we take our vengeance".

Episode 11

Written by John French

(sounds of a battle, lasguns, bolter rounds)

Aleska: "The enemy, there are hundreds of them".

Tarmoros: "Canoness, fire to the front. Do not cease, do not relent".

Hearon: “No, she is right, Tarmoros. The way between us and the excavation site will see us dead, but it is a path we will follow”.

Sakira: “Chapter Master?”

Hearon: “This is the time, Sakira. You have healed me but the gate of ashes lies ahead. It has released its hold but it waits for me to return”.

Aleska: “They come”.

Hearon: “None shall fall back. The only way is forwards. Tarmoros?”

Tarmoros: “Yes, Chapter Master”.

Hearon: “Speak the words of passing, old friend. Let us meet this last enemy with the death lament in our ears. Advance! With fire!”

Tarmoros: “From ashes we rise...”

All Doom Eagles: “We rise that we may die again... We die and in death we live!”

(numerous bolter rounds, cries of dying rebels)

* * *

(descending footsteps)

Kaephon: “We are close to the heart of this place. I can feel it”.

Whispers: “You will die here. You walk with lies. You are blind”.

Kimanski : “Kaephon, I...”

El'Metan: “What is wrong with you, human Kimanski ? Space Marine, look at the priest. He looks wrong. His eyes...”

Kaephon: “Kimanski , get up!”

Kimanski : “I... No.. NO!”

Kaephon: “Get up or I will leave you to the whispers in the darkness”.

El'Metan: “Something is wrong, Space Marine. His skin, can you not see it? The fire under his skin, are you blind?”

(Tau taking his pulse rifle and aiming at Kimanski)

Kaephon: “Throw your weapon, El'Metan. Lower it or... “

(Kaephon smashing El'Metal, Tau groaning in pain)

Kaephon: “This is the fate all your kind will face. Broken, lying at the feet of those who are stronger, undone by your own treachery”.

El"Metan: "You tongue on your own and speak of treachery (trying to laugh, but losing his breath in convulsions of pain)?"

Kaephon: "I have betrayed no truth. The master spoke to me in my dreams many years ago. He showed me the truth of all things and the lies that I had knelt to. To serve the truth is not treachery".

El"Metan (hardly speaking): "I do not care what lies you tell yourself. Finish it, Space Marine, or do your kind lack the courage for honor?"

Kaephon (suppressing a laugh): "Death is a wish I can grant".

(bolter round, Tau moaning)

Kaephon: "Kimanski , get up! Get moving if you do not wish to join him. We are close to the heart of this place. Once we are there the master will arrive at last".

Kimanski : "He was right, you know? The alien... was right. You are an able servant, Kaephon, loyal to what you believe and with a mind so closed it cannot question. For your service I thank you".

Kaephon: "What?"

Kimanski : "And you will serve again".

Kaephon: "I will leave you as blood on the floor if you do not..."

Kimanski (interrupting): "Look at me, Captain Kaephon of the Doom Eagles. Look at me and see the one you served".

(energies crackling)

Kaephon (shocked): "Oh... Your eyes... the fire... in your eyes (screaming hysterically)".

(thunder)

* * *

(sounds of a battle, lasguns, bolter rounds)

Mekatus: "Wait here".

Jearna: "Mekatus, you will never reach the jamming relay".

Mekatus: "Cover me, sister".

Jearna: "A magnificent obstinate old fool. Enemy to your left (hardly crying)".

(bolter rounds)

Jearna: "Light of Terra... Empty?"

Mekatus (over vox): “Jearna, I am pinned down here”.

Jearna: “Oh... Bolt pistols... Bolt pistols against enough enemies to fill a cathedral. Blessed father of mankind, forgive me the sin that has led me to this penance”.

Mekatus (over vox): “Jearna!!!”

Jearna: “I am the Emperor’s weapon, he is my strength and shield. I am without pain, I am without mercy. I am Seraphim”.

(bolter rounds)

* * *

(energies, thunder and lightning crackling)

Kaephon (shocked): “The fire... I am blind”.

Kimanski : “You wished to serve the truth, did you not?”

Kaephon (scared): “Master, you are here?”

Kimanski : “I have always been here looking out of others' eyes, listening to the whispers in their hearts, pulling those I needed to this one place and time, to this prison of ghosts. You can hear them, can you not? The dead of a dying race trapped here, their voices scratching on the wind. They will give me the secrets chained in their souls”.

Kaephon (shocked): “Kimanski ? All the while you were the priest...”.

Kimanski : “If that is what you wish to believe”.

Kaephon: “I cannot see you”.

Kimanski : “You are a child in the empire of the blind”.

Kaephon: “What is your name, master?”

Kimanski : “My name...”

Kaephon: “I have given my life for the truth you showed me. I have killed my brothers and broken my vows. I have breathed lies and soaked my hands in the blood of those that trusted me. I have done all this for you. No I would know whom I have served”.

Kimanski : “You are a cruel and faithless creature, Kaephon. You forsake loyalty for a treasure you do not even understand, but you will have what you ask for. In my service you shall see again, for I am Ahzek Ahriman”.

(Kaephon screaming)

Episode 12

Written by Nick Kyme

(sounds of a battle, lasguns, bolter rounds)

Mekatus: "Jearna?!"

Jearna (moaning from wounds): "Go...now..."

Mekatus: "Perhaps, we are not so different after all, sister".

Jearna: "Sentiment does not suit you, son of the Emperor".

(bolter rounds)

Jearna (unsheathing a sword): "Die well! In the Emperor's glory!"

(Jearna running and dying)

Mekatus: "Your sacrifice shall be remembered".

(Mekatus running away and opening a door)

Mekatus: "I don't know how long this door will hold them. It will have to be long enough. At last the relay station. Brothers, I pray, you will hear me in time".

* * *

(Voices mumbling, coming footsteps)

Ahriman: "We are here... at the heart of the labyrinth. Can you feel its power, Kaephon? Can you feel the schemes of fate and the universe slowly bending to my will?"

Kaephon: "I serve only Ahriman".

Ahriman (laughing): "As hollow as the Rubric Marine standing beside you. So, my brothers, I will unlock the secrets of the Black Library and with that knowledge free you from your eternal prison".

Distant voices (whispering): "All... is... dust..."

Ahriman: "Fates willing, not for much longer, brothers. Not so for you, Kaephon".

Kaephon: "I serve only Ahriman".

Ahriman: "Quiet now, pawn... I must focus on unlocking the portal. Here at the heart of the craftworld this structure of wraith bone before me must be psychically fashioned to precisely the right configuration".

(energies crackling)

Voices: "Stop! You must not defile this ancient site. You do not know what you unleash".

Ahriman: "I care not, harbinger. You send your warnings falling on deaf ears".

Voices: "Desist this madness... before it is too late"

Ahriman: "It's already too late, xenos breed. Your soul will be offered up like all the others".

(numerous screaming voices)

Ahriman: "Kaephon?"

Kaephon: "Master?"

Ahriman: "Return to the upper chamber. I do not think we are alone down here".

* * *

(sounds of a battle, lasguns, bolter rounds)

Hearon: "Death to the xenos! Death to the Tau! Vengeance will be ours, brothers".

Tarmoros: "Chapter Master, there... The dig site..."

Hearon: "And our true enemy below it".

Aleska: "Take your warriors into the pit, Hearon. My sisters and I will hold off the alien filth. Whatever knowledge you possess, let it rid us of the evil here and deliver Tranzia back to the Throne. Go with the Emperor, but go now".

Hearon: "I hope we meet again, Canoness. In his name..."

Aleska: "... And glory eternal! For the Emperor!"

(sounds of a battle, lasguns, bolter rounds)

(Aleska screaming and dying)

Hearon: "Tarmoros, Sakira, then we three are the hopes of Tranzia and our Chapter resting".

Sakira: "You too. I am sorry, Chapter Master, but you and Tarmoros must venture into the belly of the beast without... (metal strike) Oh..."

Tarmoros: "Brother Apothecary? Hearon, he is wounded, see the blood"

Sakira: "I can stand, Tarmoros. You may release me, brother Chaplain".

Hearon: "You can barely hold your bolt pistol, Sakira".

Sakira: "It is worse than that, Chapter Master. See..."

Tarmoros: "That blood is overly dark and running freely".

Sakira: "Faster than my Larraman cells can abate, I am afraid. From ashes we rise".

Tarmoros: "We rise that we may die again".

Altogether: "We die and in death we live".

Hearon: "So be it. We are - all of us - just dead men anyway".

Sakira: "I will guard the edge of the pit with whatever strength I have left, Chapter Master".

Hearon: "Fight and die with honor, Sakira. I doubt we will be far behind you. If anything comes out of that pit and it isn't Tarmoros or me..."

Sakira: "I will kill it, my lord".

Hearon: "Tarmoros, are you ready?"

Tarmoros: "To bring fire and death, Chapter Master".

Hearon: "Then let's not keep our enemies waiting any longer".

* * *

(weird praying sounds, footsteps)

Tarmoros: "What awaits us in this xenos hell, Hearon? What was shown to you before you came back to us?"

Hearon: "Truth, Tarmoros. I was shown the truth. We have been fools, pawns in a larger game we are only just now seeing. I hope we are not too..."

Tarmoros (interrupting): "Look.. up ahead. It's Kaephon".

Hearon: "No, brother Chaplain (unsheathing a sword). That is not our brother, not any more".

Tarmoros: "Oh... His eyes, they burn with the fire of damnation. His soul is lost to Chaos. Brother, what has become of you?"

Kaephon: "I serve only Ahriman".

Hearon: "I heard enough. Cut him down".

(swords clinking, hitting and two bolter rounds)

(Kaephon getting sliced trice, screaming and falling down)

Hearon: "So ends Kaephon, first Captain of the Doom Eagles. He was a traitor, Tarmoros, so why do I feel remorse?"

Tarmoros: "Because you are our lord and master. There are none greater or nobler in the Chapter. That is your burden, Hearon, and if what Kaephon said was true, we face even worse danger. The sorcerer is ancient beyond reckoning and powerful".

Hearon: "Then I hope I am strong enough to defeat him. The heart of this labyrinth is just ahead".

Tarmoros: "You won't face him alone, my lord".

Hearon: "No, not alone. We will end this together. Come on, brother. The fate of an entire world is at stake".

(footsteps)

Episode 13

Written by John French

(distant laser beams, hatch opening, Mekatus breathing deeply)

Mekatus: "At last... The relay station. Brothers, I pray, you will hear me in time".

(putting two explosion charges)

Mekatus: "Two will be enough... and perhaps another two just to be sure".

(putting two other explosion charges)

Mekatus: "There... 20 seconds to get clear. When I was a novice it would have been ten. How many enemies are there out there? A hundred? A thousand?"

(hatch opening)

Mekatus: "Enough to make a good end".

(bolter firing, Mekatus running)

(beeping sounds)

(huge explosion)

* * *

(sounds of a battle, lasers whizzing, two bolter rounds)

Sakira (slowly speaking and moaning from pain): "I die so I may rise again. I will not fail. You will not approach this place".

(three bolter rounds)

Sakira (slowly speaking): "My soul will endure even after this flesh dies. I will not pass with shame into the land of ashes. I will not!"

(distant immense explosion)

Sakira: "Light of Terra! What was that?"

(white noise)

Flagship Captain (over vox): "This is Tanos, master of Grief's Vengeance. Do any Doom Eagles on the surface respond? This is Tanos".

Sakira: "Tanos!"

Flagship Captain (over vox): "Apothecary Sakira, I hear you. We are showing sudden indications of battle on the surface. What...".

Sakira (interrupting): "It is no sudden battle, comrade. Your sight has been veiled and our voices shrouded for many hours".

(two bolter rounds)

Sakira: "The battle is old and our enemies almost overwhelm us".

(two bolter rounds)

Flagship Captain (over vox): "Your brothers, that went with you to the surface... The Chapter Master?"

Sakira: "Dead or walking the path of ashes to see our enemies dead".

Flagship Captain (over vox): "How could this happen?"

Sakira: "Treachery, Tanos. A treachery..."

(two bolter rounds)

Sakira: "Fire on the surface, Tanos! Let the Grief's Vengeance speak, bring the wrath of angels to this place before all is lost".

Flagship Captain (over vox): "If we fire I cannot pick up friend from foe. What of the Sisters of Battle? What of you and the Chapter Master?"

Sakira: "He would will this. From ashes we rise, Captain".

Flagship Captain (over vox): "Let it be so. Farewell, my lord. Remember me to those who have passed before us".

Sakira: "I will carry your name into the grey land".

(distant explosions)

Sakira: "We die that we may... (interrupted)"

(explosion in the building)

(silence)

* * *

(weird noises, pair of footsteps)

Hearon: "Trees of crystal spun with light, their branches reaching up to a dome far above, their roots sinking into the floor. The glowing forest spreading through the darkness".

Tarmoros: "No sign of our enemy, Chapter Master".

Hearon: "What manner of place is this, Tarmoros?"

Tarmoros: "An alien and a cursed one".

Ahriman (laughing): "Such a reassuringly narrow view of reality".

Tarmoros: "Show yourself, sorcerer!"

Ahriman: "An honorable move, but hardly a wise one. I know you, Detan Tarmoros, Master of Sanctity. I know your beginning and your end. I see the boy that you once were, the fear that drove you until the Imperium took it from you. I know the anger inside you and the blindness of your mind".

Tarmoros: "My soul is stone. My mind is iron and its gates are closed".

Ahriman: "But I am already in your mind or did you think that I was speaking these words to you?"

(distant explosions)

(Tarmoros unsheathing a blade)

Hearon: "Tarmoros, lower your weapon! Tarmoros! What are you doing?"

Tarmoros (moaning): "He... is... in... my mind".

(Tarmoros slashing Hearon)

Tarmoros: "I cannot keep him out".

(second slashing, Hearon moaning)

Tarmoros: "Forgive me, my lord".

(two more slashing moves, Hearon groaning and losing grip of his weapon)

Tarmoros: "No, he has me and he will kill you with my hands. You must end this, old friend".

Hearon: "I will not draw your blood".

Tarmoros: "You must... Look at the trees. They are running with starlight, the power he seeks to take from this place rises (squealing). I can feel his thoughts in my head. This is the moment, the end he has been working towards if you do not deny it to him".

Ahriman (in the distance): "Hearon, Master of the Doom Eagles, son of Skyathis, lord of the Eerie... Hear me and know that you will end here".

Tarmoros (moaning): "Hearon, now!"

Hearon: "Emperor, forgive me".

(Hearon slashing, Tarmoros moaning)

Ahriman (in the distance): "You struck your brother down, but too late... This is the first step towards ascension".

Tarmoros (dying): "The trees. brother. Shatter the trees".

Ahriman (infuriated): "NO!"

Hearon: "Ascend to oblivion!"

(numerous bolter rounds, crystals breaking)

(Ahriman screaming, numerous voices joining him)

Hearon: "I see you now, sorcerer".

Ahriman (infuriated): "You... have... denied me, but you will not leave in victory. This... will be... your tomb".

(energies crackling)

Hearon: "He is gone, melted into smoke and shadow".

Tarmoros (dying): "Hearon!"

Hearon: "Tarmoros? You still live!"

Tarmoros (dying): "Not for long, my lord... Go before this place claims you... See the roof begins to break apart and the void opens at our feet".

Hearon: "I will not leave you to end here".

Tarmoros: "I was born on this world. Where else should I die? Here or on some distant battlefield, it does not matter. All that matters is that with my life and death I served..."

Hearon: "The Eerie will fall silent at word of your passing".

Tarmoros (dying): "In death we live (breathing hard). Now go..."

Hearon: "Farewell, old friend".

(crystals breaking)

* * *

Mekatus: "You are sure, Chapter Master?"

Hearon: "Yes, Mekatus... It is as it must be. This place is tainted by the touch of aliens and by the deeds done this day".

Mekatus: "So many lost. Tarmoros, Sakira..."

Hearon: "And Aleska and her sisters and the souls corrupted by the sorcerer. Yes, I know every line of the price we paid here. The Seraphim who helped you reach the shroud generator survived, I hear".

Mekatus: "Jearna... Yes, one of the few".

Hearon: "I do not do this with anger in my heart, Mekatus. The sorcerer who set this rebellion into motion is gone, but his work coils around this place like snakes. I do what I must because I am the weapon of the Emperor. And in his name I must cut away what cannot be allowed to persist. You will, perhaps, understand this one day".

Mekatus: "My lord..."

Hearon: "The Chapter has lost much and you have lived too long in the 10th. The 1st Company needs to be freed of the taint of Kaephon's treachery. They need a hand to guide them, to remake them".

Mekatus: "I am not worthy..."

Hearon: "You are not, but you will be. And one day you may stand where I am and understand that we do not live to preserve life. We are angels of death. That is our gift to humanity. Swift, unforgiving and untainted by weakness".

Mekatus: "I will mourn for Tranzia".

Hearon: "As will I. Shipmaster Tanos..."

Flagship Captain: "My lord?"

Hearon: "Is all prepared?"

Flagship Captain: "All our forces and those of the Adepta Sorrowitas have withdrawn. The weapons await your word, my lord".

Hearon: "In the name of the Emperor of mankind, for the preservation of his Imperium and for the salvation of the future I declare the world Tranzia tainted beyond deliverance. The word is spoken. Exterminatus".