

Chapter ???

(quote)

SVT Securities File:
Planet: Earth
Agent Notes:

There were no city lights to compete with the glow of the stars. A clear night exposed them in all their glory, covering the sky. Everything was peaceful here. A faint breeze carried the smell of a grassy field and played with the blades of grass as it passed by. The ball of Light was so small it was easy to mistake it for a firefly. It skittered through the breeze, laughing at the playful nature of Air. The Light hovered over the field and in those seconds determined via a complicated algorithm whether or not the spot could hold the energy required for the message.

It was determined that this particular spot was perfect. Buzzing happily, the Light began it's work. It whipped through the grass, depressing the long stalks, moving so fast the task was completed in less than one earth minute. Once there had been nothing and in the next what the humans of Earth liked to call a crop circle had appeared.

Job complete, the tiny ball of Light filtered away tagging Air so as to resume their game.

<cool section break>

William Barker Jr was sleeping. Soundly. He was about as comfortable as a guy could be in a tent in the middle of nowhere. Or he had been, until Elena Carvallo, threw open the tent flap, pounced on him and started shaking his shoulder. "Will! Wake up, wake up, wake up!"

Will popped open one eye at his best friend. "Why? Do you know what I was drea-"

Elena slapped a hand over his mouth cutting him off. Grinning widely, her excitement almost visceral, she blew an errant curl of her dark brown hair out of her eye and used her other hand to show him the video on the hand held camera. "We got one."

Will was instantly awake. Both eyes opened and went to the screen, widening as he watched a crop circle form. He gently pried her hand from his mouth and reached for the camera. "Did this just happen? Like right now?"

Elena nodded like she'd had too much caffeine, which wouldn't be an unfair thing to assume. "Like right now, right now. We got all of it!"

Will sat up, rubbing his eyes with one hand before he hit the rewind button, watching the whole video again. At first it looked like nothing exciting, just a big open field. Until a small ball of light appeared. It whipped through the field so fast he couldn't keep up with its motion. The video cut out a second later. The whole process had taken less than a minute. He looked up at her. "A circle?"

"It's huge. We need a bird's eye view."

"I'll call Jim." He gave Elena back the camera and she got out of his lap so he could get out of his sleeping bag and scrambled for his cell phone.

<cool looking section break>

"Cusamine, Saraya, come a little closer to that asteroid will you?"

In the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, two figures flew without the assistance of any kind of inter-dimensional traveling vessel.

A round silver helmet covered Saraya's head. The visor was blue, a similar color covered her frame, a bit shinier than the suit. A double cylinder pack was on her back, thrusters, it's function controlled from the direct to brain interface inside her helmet. In one hand she carried a small square silver case [needs more this case is Atlantean]

Pushing the pack to its limit, she shot ahead of Jochlan flying so close to the asteroid she was able to run up the uneven surface with her booted feet, dive off it, flip around and repeat the same maneuver across a meter of tightly floating rocks until she broke into a small open area inside the rocky field. She abruptly eased back on the acceleration on her pack, hovering in place.

Jochlan finally caught up to her, their suit similar to hers but a darker shade of blue. "You're showing off Narosel."

Saraya grinned. "As if you couldn't keep up."

Jochlan almost smiled, but instead focused on lines of information scrolling down the front of their visor. "The Jhev-nen is finished."

Saraya lifted the case and whispered to it. [see whiteboard notes]. The locking mechanism released itself, allowing her pry open the heavy lid. Sitting inside was a sundial, it's dark grainy surface made from an asteroid come to life aeons ago when the milky way

was first built. It was as heavy as the case it was carried in, so much she needed both hands to pull it out. Jochlan caught the case itself before it floated away.

Saraya watched the data roll down her visor, giving her the exact coordinates to place herself holding the dial. A tiny beep in her ear confirmed, and she activated her thrusters to keep her in place. She whispered another phrase.

A pulse from the Black Knight satellite cast a shield around the asteroid field, ensuring that no one else would see the asteroid belt come alive. Once the rocks began to move, Saraya let the dial go, activating her thrusters again to move her out of the way. The asteroid belt began shifting, the sundial remained in place and began to glow, a deep amethyst hue pulsing out from it, slowly drawing the rocks towards it. They twisted and turned, circling around, merging together with loud clanks and deep shudders like an ancient machine finally coming back online. When it was done, the sundial hovered over the field, highlighting it in that beautiful hue and the asteroid field itself mimicked the shape of the crop circle, the Jhev-nen on Earth.

For a short time there was silence. The pulse from the sundial around the field quickened. Unseen to the human eye, and the primitive technology on earth a light shot from the Jhev-nen and into the asteroid field. The sundial began to turn, its dial twisting around until the pointed tip faced the planet Mars. The surface of the planet shifted. The Mars rover would suddenly and mysteriously go offline. A pyramid [use location here] pushed itself up from the sands time had buried it up. It need only expose the glowing tip of its capstone. Layers of dirt slid effortlessly from its surface, as if some unseen hand swiped it all away. It glistened once exposed - and then it began to sing.

The sound reverberated from the surface of Mars - throughout space. Its frequency only heard by those of Dacweian(?) blood.

It was different each time, but Saraya always thought the music that was the key to the inter-planetary doorways hauntingly beautiful. And sometimes sad. The tones knew things, things only something as ancient as they were could, knowledge it longed to share but for some reason couldn't. Its song was short, just thirty seconds.

"You get it?" Jochlan asked.

“Of course.” Saraya smiled and began making her way over to the dial, Jochlan following her. She closed her hands around the dial, placing it back inside the case.

Jochlan looked at Saraya. "Did you sense that?"

Saraya was holding her position, scanning the darkness around them. Before she could respond to her partner a sound kick sent her crashing back into one of the rocks.

"[shield]" the field shot up instantly, protecting the thrusters at her back. She shot forward again but the all black figure extended his hands and a pale ball of pulsating energy snapped out. She quickly withdrew her tanarull and with a single thought it transformed its shape into a bo' she used to block the incoming fire. Still, the force of it sent her spiraling again. A quick thought put more power into the thrusters pushing her forward instead. It worked and she finally got close enough to engage him. Next to her, she could hear the sound of Jochlan fighting his own attacker.

She jammed the end of her bo into his chest but he caught it at the last moment. Spikes shot up from his hand, lodging the weapon in his grasp. He gripped it with his opposite hand and hurled her away from him. Cursing she centered her thought on her thrusters again and felt herself caught by a strong pair of arms.

[space fight - give chase end up in Earth's orbit]

She was plummeting through space and no amount of control over her pack could help her. It was a suicide run. The suit her attacker was wearing would not hold through the dive into earth's atmosphere. He screamed turning into a ball of flame at her back. Saraya felt the heat but her suit protected her from the the flames. A warning message flashed in red on her visor, the thrusters at her back did not have the same protection. She would need to slow her descent another way.

She reached behind her, grabbing at her flaming attacker but before she could get her grip on him he disappeared. She did not know his aim, whether he was trying to put out the flames or take himself to the ground, only that when he reappeared it was above a helicopter that was circling the Jhev-nen and before she could stop him he crashed into the helicopter blades.

<cool looking section break>

Elena pushed against the seatbelt, leaning as far as she could to snap another dozen pictures of the crop circle. Will sat across from her, a video camera in his hands. Elena thought it was breathtaking, in her opinion most crop circles were and Will agreed with her. It resembled the Fibonacci spiral, perfectly formed circles that curved like a sea shell, additional markings along its outer edges.

“One more pass-” Will’s sentence was cut off when everything went to hell. The helicopter violently jerked, sensors screaming as something crashed into the blades. The sound was deafening, the smell of smoke and burnt metal overtaking the small cockpit. Immediately the helicopter went into a deadly flat spin, hurtling towards the ground.

"Mayday! Mayday!" Jim shouted into the headset.

"What the hell was that!?" William shouted, clutching the video camera to his chest and grabbing onto the edge of his seat with his other.

[Elena reaction goes right here]

"Shit... shit hang on!" Jim shouted. “We're going down!"

<cool looking section break>

Carrying herself through the breeze Saraya watched the helicopter spin wildly. They humans inside wouldn’t survive if the helicopter crashed. But if she interfered in earth matters again -

A gut instinct she could not explain put her in motion before her brain had made its up mind. Saraya asked the Air to carry her and shot forward. She moved in and out of time, arriving at the helicopter in half a second. Saraya reached in, her tanarull glowing underneath her suit, a small blade appearing in her palm that she used to slice open the woman’s seatbelt. Saraya grabbed her by the front of her jacket and threw her out, chucking her through the same rift she had used to reach them, pushing the human woman through again and again until she landed on the ground. Will didn’t even notice her, his eyes shut tightly, screaming at the top of his lungs in a very high pitched tone that might have amused Saraya if the situation hadn’t been so dire. She did the same to him. The man controlling the helicopter stared at her like she was a ghost, but thankfully didn’t fight her. When they were out she shoved the metal

machine with all her might, pushing it through an opposite rift. It crashed to the ground a few meters outside of the circle.

She would have smiled in triumph but her strength left her and she toppled to the ground.

[She needs to get injured in the fight. No reason that should have been so exhausting]

<cool looking section break>

Elena was positive she was going to die. She was certain of it. This wasn't a movie, nobody lived through a helicopter crash in real life. She was in a state of panic, thinking a million things at once, wanting to do something *anything* to help Will, help Jim, help herself, oh god Will and her family and-

Something grabbed her and Elena screamed. It was one big continuous scream now.

This was a different kind of panic. It was impossible that something was touching her, impossible that she was flying through the air, or through pockets of it. For milliseconds she would lose all sense of space and time, it was a crazy feeling she couldn't even comprehend with everything else going on and before she knew it, she hit the ground painfully hard, knew there would be bruise (probably several), but somehow she was alive.

She got up to her hands and knees, her eyes wide as she watched the helicopter crash into the ground a ball of flame ripping into the sky above it. Panic seized her again. "WILL!"

Elena almost sobbed with relief when immediately she heard - "ELENA! WHERE ARE YOU?"

"Here!" She shouted back and clambered to her feet. The sudden motion made her dizzy and nauseous and she ended up collapsing again, just as Will skittered to a halt next to her, on his knees. He grabbed her, hugging her so tight it was painful and she so didn't care.

"Where's Jim?" When she finally found her voice she knew she was crying, because it was just a lot of stuff, all at once.

"He's okay. Are you okay? Holy shit balls what just happened? How did we?"

"I don't know... I don't..."

"I felt like something grabbed me. And that's crazy right? But how did we...?"

Elena shook her head. She had no voice again, the adrenaline rush leaving her shaking. She'd never had a near death experience before, neither had Will. He completely understood and hugged her again. They'd ask questions later, right now it was really good to just be alive.