

Saturday  
September 11th, 2028  
14:18 hours (PST)

"What's the status of our shields?" Serenity asked, sitting on the bridge of her ship.

There was visible damage on the bridge, and the red lights continued to flash, indicating they were still at red alert.

"Shields at 40%," Garr said.

"Main power is line, reserves are offline. We have no more torpedos and transwarp is offline," Pascal added to the list of things wrong with the ship.

"Garr, how soon can the Anurian fleet get here?" she asked.

"Fleet a week away."

"Does anyone have any good news for me?" she replied.

Pascal turned around in his chair. "I have a theory. The original long range probe said the Vorhsoth fleet was five months away, but coming through the rift got them here even sooner. What if we open a rift of our own to bring the Anurian fleet here?" he speculated.

"Can you do that?"

"I've scanned the dimensional rift. It's really just an electron pulse being modulated by thoron energy. I could send a feedback pulse into one of the rifts and set the spacial coordinates to intercept the fleet. They could be here in minutes and we could take out the ships in the air and in orbit," he explained.

"I hear a but coming," she said.

"There are two problems. One, we would need the exact coordinates for the Anurian fleet. Second, the pulse has to be emitted from inside the rift," he said.

"Garr contact fleet. Garr get coordinates," he said.

"Good. Let's do it then," Serenity said.

"The problem is the energy field needed to make this work would also be enough to tear about the ship that generates it. It will work, but whoever sets it off isn't coming back," he said.

"Garr go!" he insisted.

"No you will not. Stand down," she said.

"But Garr..." he was interrupted by an incoming transmission.

*"Lt. James to Astro Omega Ship."*

"Go ahead, Asia."

*"Dr. Rheas and I found a weakness in the Vorhsoth. They are extremely sensitive to cold. Anything 50 below zero prevents them from being able to regenerate."*

"Great work. How do we use that?"

*"If we seal the dome around New Tech City and drop the temp, we will be able to stop every ground soldier almost at once."*

"We're working on something to get the air support we need. What do you need from us to get the dome up?"

*"Commander Tate can give the order. He's the only one on the station who can."*

"Proceed. We'll handle the rest."

*"Understood."*

Serenity stood up. "Pas, get down to the shuttle bay and equip the shuttle with whatever I need to activate the pulse."

"We can't let you sacrifice yourself like that. There has to be another way."

"Pas, either way it's over for me. If we win this war, future history will change and I'll cease to exist the same way Micah did. At least this way my sacrifice will save everyone. It has to be me," Serenity explained.

"We don't know how that works. What if you're wrong?"

"Is that your wager, Pascal?" she chuckled. "Time travel aside, I would do this in a heartbeat to save everyone. There is something I have to take care of first. I'll meet you in the shuttle bay in 10 minutes. You have your orders," she said, heading for the lift but was stopped by Garr.

“Garr no let friend die. Garr head of security. Garr go.”

“Garr, I appreciate it, but...”

“No but. Garr warrior.”

“You are, but you are a Lieutenant in SPD and I expect you to follow orders,” she said.

“No,” Garr said with a single tear in his eye.

“If I don't, *all* our friends will die. All of them. I have to do this,” she said.

Garr wrapped his arms around her. “Serenity warrior,” he proclaimed.

“Thank you, Garr. You all have your orders. Pas, I'll see you in the shuttle bay in 10,” she said, stepping into the lift.

The doors slid closed, and she was convinced that would be the last time she saw either of them.

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The blue ranger and the Phantom Ranger stood their ground as they were surrounded by Vorhsoth soldiers. Scattered around them were the bodies of soldiers they'd defeated, but they didn't stay down very long as not only did Vorhsoth soldiers get back up, innocent civilians and fallen officers were changed into Vorthsoth and were advancing forward.

They were both tired, but held their ground.

“Not only do they keep getting up, then keep coming. One of those dimensional rifts keep opening and they just keep crankin' em out,” Nathaniel pointed out.

“Then we must eliminate the source,” he said. He glanced around, spotting a dimensional rift. “I'll head in and destroy it from that end. Once we close all the rifts, we can focus on ground troops,” he said with the all too familiar duality to his voice.

“We can't just leave.”

“What are our options? They are going to keep coming until we stop them,” he said, pushing through the troops advancing and diving into the rift, disappearing.

With a reluctant sigh, the blue ranger followed him in.

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Asia rushed into Commander Tate's office to find him lifeless and unconscious on the floor. She rushed over to him, supporting his head slightly as she checked on him. At first glance, he had a serious injury to his shoulder that had been bleeding out. She tore the sleeve off his jacket, pressing it down to stop the bleeding.

"Sir, can you hear me?" she asked.

Commander Tate turned his head slightly, trying to talk but found himself unable.

"It's okay, sir. We have this under control," she lied.

Just then, Serenity hurried into the office in her ranger uniform but her helmet under her arm.

"Is he?"

"No, but I need to get him to the infirmary or he will be," Asia told her.

"Belay that. We need every able bodied ranger on hand. It will have to wait," she said.

"But sir, he will..."

"Let's move, Asia," Serenity insisted.

She hurried over to his desk, placing a small box in the top drawer, then motioned for Asia to follow. With a sigh, Asia set Commander Tate down gently, but as they turned around to leave, they saw a group of Vorhsoth coming towards them.

Serenity quickly put her helmet back on, then stood ready with Asia. Before they could make a move, there was an explosion behind the soldiers. Two of them stumbled forward, and someone did a flip through the air, over the soldiers and landing in front of them.

"Gabbi?"

Gabbi had a sword in each hand, lunging in after the Vorhsoth. One swung, but she sidestepped it and sliced off its arm. As it leaned down to get it, she sliced off the other, then spun around shoving her swords into the stomachs of two more. They fell, and Gabbi did a flip

over them. In mid air, she reached out, retrieving her swords, as as she landed on her feet, she used the swords to tear through the Vorhsoths legs. They stumbled back, collapsing.

“They’ll be back up in a moment. I’ll get the commander to the med bay and patch him up. Asia, finish working on your plan. Serenity I assume you’re headed to the shuttle bay. Go, I’ll cover you,” she said.

“Gabbi, when did you get so...”

“We can talk about it later. Now go, the galaxy is counting on the two of you,” she said, pulling Commander Tate to his feet, wrapping his arm around herself and headed towards the infirmary.

“You good?” Asia asked, turning to Serenity.

Serenity lied, nodding. “I’m fine, mom. But we gotta go,” she said.

“When this is over we’re going to go to the promenade and try that mexican food place. I hear it’s pretty good,” she said.

Serenity smiled. “Sounds good. Be safe, mom,” she said, rushing out of the room.

Asis didn't need to be from the future, have a power or even be a mother to hear the finality in Serenity's voice. Whatever her plan was, she knew Serenity didn't plan on surviving.

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“Report,” The Shadow Ranger said as he stepped onto the bridge of the Omega Ship.

Lt. Garr was the only one on the bridge. “Shields gone. No power. Serenity leave in shuttle to get help. Pascal help,” he said.

“And what about you, buddy?”

He stood up straight. “Garr warrior. Garr defend,” he said, locking into Vorhsoth ships and opening fire from his control panel.

“Good work, but we aren't making a dent in these ships with these weapons,” he walked over to the controls. “Once Serenity's shuttle is clear, you and Pas get off the ship. I'm going to lay in a course to the Vorthsoth mother ship in orbit and activate the self destruct. It'll destroy the ship, but we'll take the Vorthsoth with us,” he said.

"What about friend?" he asked.

"I'm just one person. it's a small price to pay to save the planet. You have your orders, Garr," he said.

"No."

"This isn't up for discussion. You have your orders."

"No. Garr just make friends. All friends trying to die. Friend can be warrior and no die," Garr insisted.

"I hear you, but..."

"Find other way!" he insisted.

"What did you have in mind?"

"Self destruct. Auto pilot," he said.

"Now why didn't I think of that?"

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"Everything is set to go. Once you enter the rift, activate the pulse. It should destabilize the rifts and close them all. If nothing else it will destroy everything in the rift, and ships on the other side of the rift will be fine," Pascal said, putting the finishing touches on the shuttle.

"How does that get the Anurians here?"

"Set the coordinates Garr gave you. It should open the rift for them, but it will only last a few minutes. Its unstable to begin with and emitting this pulse isn't going to help with that."

Serenity sat down in the only chair in the shuttle, strapping herself in. "Pas, it's been an honor," she said.

"I will see you again, Lt. Commander. Thats a promise," he told her, standing up straight and saluting her.

It was a sentimental thing to say, but in her heart, Serenity knew better. "Until then..." she sighed.

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Passing through the rift forced Nathaniel and Nik to demorph, but they found themselves on a Vorhsoth ship. There didn't seem to be any bridge, no engineering section, nothing. It was all open space with the exception of a small work station being managed by an Xybrian.

They hurried over to him.

"You're under arrest for attempted genocide of the human race," Nathaniel called out.

The Xybrian turned around to face them, revealing he had no eyes. Not even sockets where eyes should be. "Oh that sounds nice, arrested. Shall we go?" he asked in a frail voice, shaking slightly.

"What are you doing in here?"

"Working."

Nathaniel looked over the work, trying to make sense of it. "This is based on the same formula that SPD used in creating the cellular enhancers. The Vorhsoth are..."

"They're us, my friend," the Xybrian said.

"Wait. What the heck is going on?"

"The Xybrians created the Vorhsoth by accident. It looks like they were experimenting on themselves, trying to enhance themselves, but they got Vorhsoth instead. Other Xybrians tried to control them but found they couldn't, so instead of trying to help them, they sent them away with these makeshift portals. They were just... dumping their mistakes off on the rest of the galaxy," he scoffed.

"So what do we do with that information?" Nik asked.

"Looks like this guy was working on a gas that would prevent the genetic enhancements, but only for Xybrians. I could take this, make this into a gaseous form and administer it to the Vorhsoth. It should reverse the process," he said.

"And how long would that take?"

"Not long at all. Why?" Nathaniel asked.

"Because," he motioned up, and Nathaniel realized that the room had filled up with Vorhsoth soldiers, and they were surrounded. "You've got 30 seconds. 40 tops," he said.

The Xybrian handed Nathaniel a slip of paper. "This is what you'll need to create the serum," he told him.

Nathaniel glanced around, then realized what he had to do. He reached for his phase pistol. He quickly grabbed a vial of serum on the table, tossed it into the air, then aimed and shot it down. The heat from the beam converted the liquid onto a gas, and it began to trickle down onto the Vorthsoth.

They watched as the Vorthsoth began to change. Their organic armor began to melt away, being replaced by Xybrians. Some of the mist landed on Nik, but it seemed to have no effect at all. He glanced over at Nathaniel, who had fallen to the floor and was shaking.

Nik hurried over to him. "Chief, what's happening?" he asked, trying to help.

Nathaniel began to shake even more violently, his eyes rolled into the back of his head, but when they stopped, his eyes were completely white. And just like that, the shaking stopped and Nathaniel stood up.

"I remember," he said.

"You remember what?"

"Everything," Nathaniel sighed with amazement.

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Commander Tate opened his eyes only to find himself being carried down to the executive levels of SPD. He had only been down there himself a few times, and always with Admiral Cruger. Only the highest ranking officers knew of its existence.

"Gabbi?" he inquired, still groggy.

"We need to raise the dome, sir. You're the only one who can," she said, struggling with him.

They stopped at a panel on the far wall. She grabbed his hand, placing it on the panel.



*"Welcome back, Commander Tate,"* the computer announced.

The doors slid open, and Gabbi helped him inside and over to the controls, sitting him down.

"How do you know about this area?" he asked.

"You'd be surprised what I know, Sky. Now please, raise the dome," she pleaded.

"Not until you tell me whats going on, Gabbi."

She knew he wouldn't cooperate until he had the answers he wanted, so lying to him would be a waste of time. So she decided to tell him everything.

"I am a Time Force agent. I was sent here to ensure that time progressed as it should. I'll be happy to explain it all to you, but right now we need to get the dome up. Asia believes extreme cold will stop the Vorthsoth from regenerating and make them easier to stop, but we can't lower the temperature until the dome is up." she explained.

"After this, I expect answers," he said.

"And you will have them, sir."

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"The dome is up!" Dr. Rheas said, looking outside to see the dome activating. It was less a physical dome and more an energy barrier constructed by SPD, designed in the event of a viral agent getting loose. If it were inside the dome, it would prevent it from spreading. If it were outside, it would prevent anything from getting in.

Asia hurried over to the controls. "Computer, lower the temperature inside the dome to 50 below zero," she said.

*"Unable to comply. Temperature is below human survival limits,"* the computer announced.

"Override."

*"Unable to comply."*

"Well, that didn't work," Asia sighed.

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"Serenity's shuttle is entering the rift," Pascal announced, activating the main viewer.

They watched as the shuttle disappeared into the rift.

"So now what? How will we know it worked?" Lt. Commander Ford asked.

Before Pascal could respond, there was an explosion from inside the rift. The shockwave was enough to push the Omega ship back.

"Nevermind."

"The rift is destabilizing," he checked his monitor again. "Sir, there is something coming out of the rift," he said.

"Is it Serenity?"

"No sir, it's the Anurian fleet!" Pascal said. "She did it, sir. Serenity pulled it off."

"Yeah, she did," KJ sighed.