EXT. SPACE

Blackness. Stars fade in. The sun slowly rises behind a dark planet.

SUPERIMPOSITION:

In the year 2148, explorers on Mars discovered the remains of an ancient spacefaring civilization, the Protheans. In the decades that followed, mysterious artifacts revealed startling new technologies, enabling travel to the furthest stars. The basis for this incredible technology was a force that controlled the very fabric of space and time. They called it the greatest discovery in human history. The civilizations of the galaxy call it...

EXT. SPACE

Sunlight crosses the planet’s horizon. There is a blinding light.

TITLE CARD: MASS EFFECT.

EXT. SPACE - MORNING

A Mass Relay, a huge transportation station with massive energy at it’s center. An Alliance Starship, the NORMANDY, enters from it with a BANG. It flies toward the planet Eden Prime.

INT. NORMANDY, COMMAND DECK

COMMANDER SHEPARD, early 30’s in military attire, walks through the command deck. Crew members work at stations to his left and right. He passes by JOKER, mid 20’s in pilot gear.

SHEPARD
Aren’t you supposed to be flying this ship?

JOKER
A three hour flight, I walk away for two minutes! Two!

SHEPARD
I wasn’t complaining. I actually feel safer.
JOKER
Ha. Ha. We’ll see whose laughing
after Captain Anderson and Nihlus
have a word with you.

SHEPARD
Looking forward to it.

INT. NORMANDY, CAPTAINS QUARTERS

Shepard enters the Captain’s Quarters. The door shuts behind him. CAPTAIN ANDERSON, late 40’s military general, and NIHLUS, a turian spectre, stand waiting. Turians are 6 feet tall, bipedal with avian characteristics, mandibles around their mouths, and usually wear armour.

NIHLUS
Commander Shepard.

SHEPARD
Nihlus. Captain Anderson.

Nihlus and Anderson nod.

NIHLUS
This planet, Eden Prime, it means a lot to you, doesn’t it?

SHEPARD
To me?

NIHLUS
To you, Captain Anderson, Earth. A symbol that humanity is finally able to not just colonize worlds, but protect them.

SHEPARD
If you’ve got something to say, say it.

The ship ROCKS. The Normandy enters Eden Prime’s atmosphere. Shepard looks out the window at blue skies.

ANDERSON
It’s about time we told you what’s really going on.

Shepard walks up to Nihlus.
SHEPARD
When a turian spectre boards your ship during a simple resupply mission, there’s obviously more going on, and about time you told me.

NIHLUS
By order of the Council, we’re making a covert pick-up.

ANDERSON
A human colony discovered an ancient beacon. The Normandy’s stealth systems made our crew the perfect fit for this mission.

SHEPARD
And this beacon...

NIHLUS
Prothean.

The ship ROCKS again. The blue skies have turned to storms.

ANDERSON
There hasn’t been a discovery of this magnitude since we originally discovered the protheans themselves, back on Mars.

Joker interrupts through the intercom.

JOKER
(intercom)
Captain, you’re going to want to see this. I’ve patched through to your personal console.

Anderson plays a video message.

ANDERSON
The ground team.

EXT. EDEN PRIME, COLONY ENTRANCE - VIDEO MESSAGE

The video shows Alliance Soldiers on the ground. Huge EXPLOSIONS and debris fly everywhere. Gun fire WHISTLES by. An ALLIANCE SOLDIER holds the camera towards himself.

ALLIANCE SOLDIER
We are under attack. Heavy casualties taken.

(MORE)
We're not the only ones who know of the beacon. I repeat, unknown enemy has come for the beacon. They came out of nowhere, and now-

The Alliance soldier is SHOT. A loud MECHANIC GROAN. The camera falls and shows other alliance soldiers. They stop firing and stare into the distance. An explosion turns the camera. A gigantic starship rises into the clouds, amidst a lightning storm. The camera goes static.

INT. NORMANDY, CAPTAINS QUARTERS

The video ends.

ANDERSON
Joker, status report.

JOKER
(intercom)
Next alliance vessel is 30 minutes out.

Anderson looks at Nihlus.

ANDERSON
Land close to that transmission point.

NIHLUS
Go as a group and we'll be sitting ducks. As a small strike team we'll go unnoticed for as long as we can.

JOKER
(intercom)
ETA 10 minutes. Stealth systems engaged.

EXT. EDEN PRIME, COLONY ENTRANCE - MORNING

Blue skies have returned, it is peaceful. The Normandy hovers above the surface, docking bay doors open, Nihlus standing. Anderson, Shepard, Kaidan, and an ALLIANCE SOLDIER appear behind him.

NIHLUS
One more thing, Shepard.

SHEPARD
Yeah?
NIHLUS
Prove yourself here, and two spectres will be bringing this beacon back to the council.

Shepard is shocked.

SHEPARD
But, there’s never been a human spectre.

NIHLUS
So don’t mess this up. Catch you on the other side.

Nihlus hops to the ground. The Normandy takes off.

EXT. EDEN PRIME, EXCAVATION SITE
The Normandy lands at an excavation site.

SHEPARD
I guess Nihlus won’t be joining us.

ANDERSON
He prefers to work alone.

SHEPARD
Small strike teams indeed. Looks like somebody wants to be the hero.

ANDERSON
There’s a lot more to being a spectre than heroics. It’s not just about the success of the mission, but how that success is achieved. It’s makes you who you are. Separates the renegades from the paragon.

Shepard, Kaidan and Alliance Soldier hop to the ground.

ANDERSON (CONT’D)
Get in, investigate the beacon, get out. We’ll be waiting. Good luck.

The Normandy takes off. The Eden Prime colony lays ahead beyond a ridge. There are holes dug everywhere.

KAIDAN
Someone’s been busy.

GUNFIRE. ASHLEY WILLIAMS runs over the ridge.
Two flying GETH DRONES and a GETH SOLDIER follow behind Ashley. The geth trooper is a humanoid bipedal robot. It’s face has a bright light instead of a face. The geth drone is a small orb with a gun attached. They shoot at the team.

Shepard and Kaidan take cover. Alliance Soldier is SHOT and killed. Ashley dives behind a rock, pinned down. Kaidan draws fire away while Shepard shoots down the geth drones. Ashley kills the geth trooper.

Shepard walks toward the ridge. Ashley and Kaidan follow.

ASHLEY
Gunnery Chief Ashley Williams, of the 212. Where did you come from? I saw a ship.

SHEPARD
That ship is the Normandy, and we’re not going back until we recover that beacon.

ASHLEY
The beacon? There’s no way you’re getting close to that.

KAIDAN
We have to.

ASHLEY
You’ll have to get by the geth. They came from nowhere, blocked our signals, and-

Shepard clears the ridge.

Dragon’s teeth, spiked metal structures, ten feet tall, rise from the ground. Husks, half-human half-machine bodies, lay pierced through them. There are dozens of them.

ASHLEY (CONT’D)
Dragon’s teeth.

KAIDAN
I thought those were just a fairy-tale. Or, nightmare.

The spikes lower. The husks slide off charge Shepard. He fires at the nearest husk. It falls.

KAIDAN (CONT’D)
Are they... human?

Kaidan and Shepard fire at a few husks.
SHEPARD
They used to be.

ASHLEY
They used to be my team. My friends.

SHEPARD
I’m sorry, but we can’t do anything now.

Shepard and Kaidan continue to fire. Ashley reluctantly joins them. There’s too many.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
We have to get out of here. On me.

The team sprints through the husks. One grabs Kaidan. Shepard wrestles it off, but two more grab him. Ashley shoots them off. Running and shooting they make it to the colony entrance.

EXT. EDEN PRIME, BEACON

The prothean beacon sits near a rocky ledge. Storage containers and cranes are everywhere. Nihlus, stands around the corner, back against the wall. SAREN, another turian spectre, studies the beacon, his back turned to Nihlus.

Nihlus scans the area. The coast is clear. Nihlus charges forward, weapon aimed and steady.

Nihlus nears Saren. He slows to a walk and lowers his weapon.

NIHLUS
Saren?

SAREN
Nihlus.

Saren turns. Nihlus drops his weapon on a nearby storage crate.

NIHLUS
This isn’t your mission Saren.

SAREN
The council thought you could use some help on this one. Having another spectre around can’t hurt.
Nihlus is satisfied with Saren’s answer. He walks past Saren and looks out beyond the ledge the beacon sits on. A small ship is heading toward them.

NIHLUS
I wasn’t expecting to find the geth here. The council won’t be pleased.

Nihlus squints. He can’t make out who is coming.

SAREN
Don’t worry.

Saren takes out his pistol and aims it at Nihlus’s back.

SAREN (CONT’D)
I’ve got it under control.

INT. EDEN PRIME, COLONY

Shepard and team walk down a hallway. It’s empty. Office supplies litter the floor. There are a few Dragon’s teeth with no husks on them. Silence.

KAIDAN
It’s as if everyone just,
(beat)
Disappeared.

SHEPARD
First we find the beacon, then we look for survivors.

ASHLEY
Nobody could have survived this.

There’s a loud GUNSHOT.

SHEPARD
Quickly!

Shepard runs. Dead end.

He runs another way, but the door is locked. A RUMBLE shakes the colony. Everyone stops to gain composure.

Silence. Shepard shoots the door lock and BANG, kicks the door open.
EXT. EDEN PRIME, BEACON

Shepard and team spot Saren hopping on board the ship Nihlus spotted. Geth troopers fire from on board. Shepard spots Nihlus’s limp body.

SHEPARD
Kaidan, get me a visual. Ashley, protect the beacon.

Kaidan runs right while using binoculars to get a visual.

Ashley takes cover in front of the beacon.

Shepard slowly advances forward as the ship takes off. The geth troopers keep firing, but not at the team. Shepard notices they’re aiming for the beacon.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Don’t let them destroy the beacon!

Shepard pushes closer. Kaidan provides cover fire. Ashley is pinned down. A couple stray shots hit the beacon as the ship takes off. Shepard gets on his radio.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Shepard to Anderson. Beacon secure. Nihlus didn’t make it.

The beacon sparks. A loud RUMBLE resonates from within. The beacon flashes. Ashley is pulled toward it.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Ashley!

Shepard drops his radio. Anderson, muffled, calls out to Shepard. Shepard pushes Ashley out of the way.

KAIDAN
Commander!

Shepard is pulled to the front of the beacon.

SHEPARD
Stay... back...

Kaidan and Ashley watch as Shepard is pulled into the air. A series of images flash before he eyes. He drops to the ground.

The beacon bursts apart. Debris from the beacon is everywhere. Nihlus’s and Shepard’s body lay within feet of each other in front of the beacon.
Ashley gives Shepard CPR. Kaidan grabs the radio.

    KAIDAN
    Shepard is down. Need an evac stat.

    ANDERSON
    What the hell happened down there?

    KAIDAN
    I don’t know, Captain. I don’t know.

EXT. CITADEL - DAY

The Normandy flies toward the Citadel, a massive space station. Five wards, fifty kilometers long, branch off from a center ring, like a five pointed star. At the center of the ring is the citadel tower.

EXT. CITADEL, HANGER

The Normandy docks in the citadel hanger.

INT. CITADEL, PRESIDIUM

The Presidium is the center ring of the Citadel. It is a beautiful area including businesses, shops, trees, lakes, and lots of aliens.

Shepard, Anderson, and ambassador UDINA walk toward the citadel tower in the distance. They are ants among a city.

INT. CITADEL TOWER

Shepard, Anderson, and Udina exit an elevator and walk up steps leading to the Citadel Council. Shepard bumps into a KEEPER, a short green alien with four legs and two arms.

    SHEPARD
    Damn Keepers.

The keeper doesn’t flinch. It continues on its way.

    ANDERSON
    The Keepers were before the asari first discovered the Citadel. They don’t mind us, and we would do well to not mind them.
SHEPARD
Well they should watch where they’re going.

UDINA
The Keepers keep this place running. If not for them, there would be no Citadel, and no report you’d have to make in two minutes!

SHEPARD
I’m ready.

Shepard stumbles on the next step.

UDINA
I need you focused. Do not make me look bad. We are so close to getting a human on the council.

Shepard stumbles again but recovers nicely.

ANDERSON
Dr. Chakwas may have cleared you to be here but I’m not certain you’re recovered from that beacon encounter. I need you in top form if you’re going to be with us, especially with Udina pulling us a favor to get this hearing scheduled so quickly.

UDINA
Don’t make me regret doing that.
(beat)
Now, the council is a fickle group. I’ve read your report. I’ll do the talking.

INT. CITADEL, COUNCIL CHAMBER

Shepard reaches the Citadel council. The council is made up of a TURIAN COUNCILOR, ASARI COUNCILOR, and SALARIAN COUNCILOR.

The salarian is a bipedal amphibian the size a human but thinner, and with dual horns coming off the back of it’s head.

The asari are a mono-gender race with similar physique to human females, blue-toned skin, and instead of hair have slicked-back appendages that form the back of their head.
The council sits on a platform in public space. Onlookers watch the proceedings. Saren is connected via hologram.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Commander Shepard. Pleased to see you’re alright.

Shepard nods.

TURIAN COUNCILOR (CONT’D)
That said, Nihlus is dead, the prothean beacon is destroyed, and your report says the geth have returned. This is not good.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Geth haven’t traveled outside the Veil in two centuries.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Not to mention, the C-Sec investigation of Saren has come back with no evidence to support your charge of treason.

Shepard shakes his head.

UDINA
Shepard heard the gunshot, and Kaidan witnessed Saren fleeing the scene!

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
I’ve read the report. Kaidan witnessed a turian that looked like Saren, but can not be one-hundred percent certain.

From the hologram, Saren rolls his eyes.

SAREN
I resent these accusations. Nihlus was a fellow spectre, and a friend.

Captain Anderson pounds his fist on the podium.

ANDERSON
Which is why he let his guard down!

Udina gives Anderson a glare.
SAREN
Captain Anderson, you always seemed to be involved when humanity makes false charges against me. And this time you brought Commander Shepard. Wasn’t destroying the beacon enough, commander?

SHEPARD
You’re the one who destroyed the beacon, then left me to be framed!

SAREN
Sure, shift the blame to cover-up your own failures. Just like Captain Anderson. He’s taught you well.

SHEPARD
I’ll teach you-

SAREN
Learn your place in the galaxy, human. You’re not ready to join the council. You’re not even ready to join the spectres.

UDINA
He has no right to say that! It is not his decision!

The Council turns to Saren.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Shepard’s admission into the spectres is not the purpose of this meeting.

SAREN
This meeting has no purpose! The humans are wasting your time, councilor. And mine.

ANDERSON
You can’t hide behind the council forever. And we haven’t addressed Shepard’s vision. The one caused by the beacon.

Shepard closes his eyes. The images race through his head.
SHEPARD
I saw synthetics. Machines. Geth maybe? They were... butchering people.

SAREN
Are we allowing dreams into evidence now? How can I defend my innocence against this kind of testimony?

TURIAN COUNCILOR
I agree. Our decisions must be based on facts and evidence. Not imaginings and speculations.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
If there is nothing else you have to say. This trail is adjourned.

Anderson steps away from the podium. Udina shakes his head. Shepard stares back at Saren.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Then the council finds no connection between Saren and the geth. Nihlus may have been lost, but it seems Shepard did what he could to save him and the beacon.

SAREN
I’m glad to see justice has been served.

Saren’s hologram shuts off. Udina has left the podium. Shepard still stands in disbelief.

INT. CITADEL, PRESIDIUM

Anderson, Shepard, and Udina talk in the Presidium in front of a huge mass relay statue. A keeper walks near them and opens up a vent in the floor and adjusts some connections.

UDINA
It was a mistake bringing you in there, Anderson. You have too much history with Saren. It made the council question our motives.

ANDERSON
Saren’s a specter, one of the best. But if he’s gone rogue there’d be only one reason why.
The keeper shuts the vent, takes a few steps and opens another. Shepard and Anderson have to get out of the way.

ANDERSON (CONT’D)
To exterminate the entire human race.

Udina rolls his eyes.

ANDERSON (CONT’D)
I don’t know what else was in that beacon, but you can be sure Saren will find a way to use it against our ships, colonies, maybe even Earth.

UDINA
Even if he’s half as dangerous as you say, he’s virtually untouchable. He’s a spectre.

The keeper walks up the mass relay statue and attempts to move it. The keeper is not strong, it doesn’t budge.

ANDERSON
I have a contact in C-Sec. He was leading their own investigation of Saren. It’s as good a place to start as any.

UDINA
I will not have the council use your history with Saren as an excuse to ignore anything we turn up. Shepard will handle it.

SHEPARD
I’ll take care of it.

INT. CITADEL, C-SEC – LATER
Shepard walks in to C-Sec, the Citadel police station.

CONRAD VERNER is walking out. He blocks Shepard’s path.

CONRAD
Commander Shepard? The Hero of Eden Prime! It’s an honor!

Shepard tries to step forward, but Conrad won’t budge.

SHEPARD
Uh, do I know you?
CONRAD
No, no. I’m just a fan. You’re biggest fan! The names Conrad Verner.

Shepard tries to dodge him. Conrad steps in front of him again.

SHEPARD
That’s great Conrad, but I’m kinda busy right now.

CONRAD
I heard you killed a hundred Geth!

SHEPARD
Right...

Shepard physically moves Conrad out of the way.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
I really need to be going, Conrad.

CONRAD
Next time then! Maybe I’ll get your autograph! The pleasures all mine!

Shepard continues into C-Sec. GARRUS, a turian, is standing impatiently.

SHEPARD
You must be Garrus.

GARRUS
Where’s Anderson?

SHEPARD
Too much baggage with Saren.

GARRUS
You don’t have to tell me.

Shepard is puzzled.

GARRUS (CONT’D)
Anderson was almost a spectre once. His final trial was with Saren.

SHEPARD
I’m guessing something went wrong.
GARRUS
Lots of civilians died that day. Because of Saren’s recklessness Anderson didn’t become a spectre, and Saren came out looking golden. You connect the dots.

SHEPARD
How do you know all this?

GARRUS
You work in C-Sec for long enough, you hear things.

SHEPARD
So I take it you’re not a fan of Saren?

Garrus shrugs, he’s not a fan.

GARRUS
I have one lead. Guy named Fist, Saren’s informant. A quarian named Tali setup a meeting with him, thinking he’s the Shadow Broker.

SHEPARD
What kind of information could Tali have?

GARRUS
Whatever it is, Saren is scared of it leaking out, otherwise he wouldn’t have Fist involved pretending to be the Shadow Broker.

SHEPARD
Where can I find Fist?

GARRUS
Oh no. This may be your show, but I’m coming with you. Saren is a disgrace to my people, and the council. Even if they don’t see it yet.

Shepard extends his hand.

SHEPARD
Welcome aboard.
INT. CITADEL, CHORA’S DEN - NIGHT


WREX, a hulking Krogan with a scar down the right side of his face, makes his way to the back of the club. Krogan are reptilian bipeds that stands seven feet tall, and covered in armor.

At the back of the club is a door with a NO ADMITTANCE sign posted. A KROGAN BODYGUARD blocks the door. He notices Wrex approaching.

KROGAN BODYGUARD
Back off Wrex, Fist knows you’re coming.

WREX
Fist leaves now if he even wants a chance to live.

KROGAN BODYGUARD
Nobody gets in to see Fist right now. Especially you. End of story.

WREX
This story’s just beginning.

KROGAN BODYGUARD
Do you want me to escort you out?

Wrex takes a step back.

WREX
I want you to try.

Wrex turns around to leave, then swings back around and knocks the bodyguard out cold. The Krogan Bodyguard falls and his guns goes off. People start screaming, running. Chaos in the bar.

Other bodyguards reveal themselves and take shots at Wrex. Wrex BARGES through the NO ADMITTANCE door and shuts it behind him.

Garrus and Shepard show up at the front entrance of Chora’s Den. Everyone streams out past them.

GARRUS
This can’t be coincidence.

SHEPARD
Someone else must be after Tali!
Shepard leads while Garrus falls back. Two Krogan bodyguards run toward Shepard. Shepard takes one down. Garrus hits the other with his sniper rifle. Shepard turns.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
I could have taken him.

Garrus is pushed to the side by a biotic shockwave of enormous power.

An asari bodyguard raises her hands to Shepard and shoots another biotic shockwave in his direction.

Shepard leaps out of the way. He lands at the feet of a turian bodyguard. Shepard smiles uneasily. Another shockwave blast. The turian and Shepard are both knocked back.

The asari bodyguard walks up to Shepard and puts her hand in his face, as threatening as a gun. She laughs in contempt of Shepard. She motions to summon another shockwave blast when she’s SHOT. Shepard stands up. Garrus is the only other person left standing in the club.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
You’re handy to have around.

GARRUS
Back of the club. Let’s go.

Shepard looks at the NO ADMITTANCE door.

GARRUS (CONT’D)
Fist will be in there.

INT. CITADEL, FIST’S OFFICE

FIST, a human, is speaking with TALI, the quarian. Tali has a human physique but lives in a bio-suit. Her face is blocked under a mask. Tali sits at a table while Fist circles her.

FIST
Giving me the data is the only chance you have of leaving here alive.

TALI
No Shadow Broker. No info. I made a deal.

Fist flexes his hands to show off his brass knuckles.
FIST
Smart little engineer, so far from home. Aren’t you a little out of your league?

Tali draws her weapon but Fist knocks it aside. CRASH. Fist is startled backwards. Tali jumps up. FOOTSTEPS. Wrex appears coming up a stairwell. His gun is trained toward Tali and Fist. They are too close together to know who he aims at.

WREX
Step away from the quarian.

FIST
I have credits. Lots. Or... did you come for the quarian? Take her. She’ll only speak to the Shadow Broker anyway.

Another CRASH. Shepard and Garrus enter.

GARRUS
Wrex? What are you doing here?

Wrex shoots Fist.

WREX
Payment.

SHEPARD
Payment?

WREX
You don’t imitate the Shadow Broker and live to tell the tale. Dead or Alive contract.

SHEPARD
We could have arrested him alive!

WREX
That’s what I was afraid of. I don’t get paid for detainment.

GARRUS
You can’t just go around shooting people!

WREX
It was the only contract I had left. I don’t leave jobs half finished.

Tali is frazzled by the whole situation.
TALI
I’m... not sure what to say. Thank you for saving me though. I owe you.

She reaches into her pocket and takes out a data chip. She Tosses it over to Wrex. Wrex holds the chip, not sure what to do with it.

WREX
I already got paid. Just doing my job. You don’t owe me anything.

SHEPARD
Then join us.

Garrus is appalled.

GARRUS
Join us?

WREX
Join you?

SHEPARD
I need that chip, and you need a contract. I can’t pay you, but I can I can offer you the opportunity to hunt down a rogue spectre.

GARRUS
Wrex is aggressive, unpredictable and dangerous. C-Sec won’t even bother with him!

WREX
Ha!

SHEPARD
What do you say?

WREX
You have my attention, for now. Let me know when you’re ready to head of this piece of metal.

TALI
What about me?

SHEPARD
Head back to the Flotilla. It’s less dangerous there.
TALI
Danger? I salvaged that chip from the memory core of a live Geth. Saren is using their help and you’d be well off to have a Geth expert on hand. Besides, I’m on my pilgrimage. If I head back now, with nothing, they won’t even accept my return.

GARRUS
Shepard, the quarians created the geth. They lost their homeworld to them in the great Geth Uprising, but, they still know more about them then anybody else.

Shepard thinks it over.

SHEPARD
Let’s hear that recording first.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL - LATER

The Council waits impatiently. Udina and Anderson try to remain calm.

UDINA
I assure you, Councilors, Shepard will be but a minute more.

Udina turns to Anderson.

UDINA (CONT’D)
Where’s Shepard? Every second he’s not here makes me look worse. This better be worth it, or you’re out of a job. Do you even know the damage he caused in Chora’s Den?

ANDERSON
He would never make an emergency request like this unless it was warranted.

Shepard leads Tali and Garrus running into the council chamber. He arrives next to Anderson and Udina out of breath.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
This trial has been in session for ten minutes commander, and not a meaningful word spoken.
Shepard can barely speak.

    SHEPARD
    Listen.

Shepard plays Tali’s data chip.

    SAREN (RECORDING)
    Eden Prime was a major victory. The beacon has brought us one step closer to finding the Conduit.

    UNKNOWN (RECORDING)
    And one step closer to the return of the Reapers.

The Council is shocked. Udina breathes a sigh of relief and Anderson smiles, proud of Shepard.

    SALARIAN COUNCILOR
    Where was this found?

Tali steps forward.

    TALI
    Extracted from a Geth memory core before the self-destruct kicked in.

Udina gains confidence.

    UDINA
    You wanted proof of Saren’s treachery. There it is.

The council debates for a moment.

    TURIAN COUNCILOR
    Saren is stripped of his spectre status effective immediately. All efforts will be made for his arrest and have him answer for his crimes.

    ASARI COUNCILOR
    I recognize the other voice, the one speaking with Saren. Matriarch Benezia. She is an asari, a powerful biotic, and a spiritual leader with many followers. She will be of great assistance to Saren if she’s working with him.
SALARIAN COUNCILOR
I’m more interested in these... Reapers. What do you know about them.

Udina turns to Shepard. Shepard turns to Tali. Tali speaks.

TALI
According to the geth memory core, the Reapers were a hyper advanced machine race that existed 50,000 years ago. Reapers hunted the protheans to total extinction, then... vanished. The geth see the Reapers as Gods, the pinnacle of non-organic life. And they believe Saren knows how to bring the Reapers back, most likely through the Conduit.

SHEPARD
That’s it. That’s what I saw! The beacon transferred... images? Memories maybe, of the protheans being wiped out by the Reapers!

ANDERSON
You must send the Citadel Fleet to find Saren. Obviously this Conduit is the key to bringing back the Reapers.

The Salarian council shakes his head.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
We don’t even know what the Conduit is.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
I’ve heard of Reapers before, but listen to what you’re saying. Saren is attempting to bring back an extinct race, with the help of the geth, to exterminate all life in the galaxy? Impossible.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
Where did the Reapers go?

ASARI COUNCILOR
Vanished. No trace of their very existence.
TURIAN COUNCILOR
If they were real, we’d have found something.

SHEPARD
We tried to warn you about Saren. You’re making the same mistake again!

ASARI COUNCILOR
This is different. You proved Saren betrayed the council

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
And we now agree Saren is using the geth to find the Conduit.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
What we don’t know is why. The Reapers are clearly just a myth.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
A convenient lie to cover his true purpose. A legend he is using to bend the geth to his will.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
And your vision is still not admissible evidence.

SHEPARD
50,000 years ago the Reapers wiped out galactic civilization. If Saren finds the Conduit, it will happen again.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Saren is a rogue agent, who will now be on the run for his life without the resources of being a spectre. It’s a matter of time before he’s caught.

UDINA
We’re already out of time!

ANDERSON
The more we talk, the stronger position Saren is in. Send in the Citadel fleet!

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Out of the question. We are not starting a galactic war over this.
SHEPARD
Then allow me to go after him. Give me the backing I need to bring him in.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
No. It’s too soon. Humanity is not ready for the responsibilities that come with joining the spectres.

SHEPARD
It was a Turian spectre who betrayed this council, and a human who exposed him!

The council goes into discussion. They reach a consensus and nod to Shepard. He takes a step forward. The councilors each make a note on the data pads in front of them.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Commander Shepard.

Bystanders, most of them human, stop to look on.

ASARI COUNCILOR (CONT’D)
It is the decision of the council that you be granted all the powers and privileges of the Special Tactics and Reconnaissance branch of the Citadel.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
Spectres aren’t trained, but chosen. Individuals forged in the fire of service and battle. Those whose actions elevate them above the rank and file.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Spectres are an ideal. A symbol. The embodiment of courage, determination, and self reliance. They are the right hand of the council. Instruments of our will.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Spectres bear a great burden. They are protectors of galactic peace. Both our first, and last, line of defence. The safety of the galaxy is theirs to uphold.
ASARI COUNCILOR
You are the first human spectre, commander. This a great accomplishment for you and your entire species.

SHEPARD
I am honored, councilors.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
We are sending you after Saren. You are authorized to use any means necessary to apprehend or eliminate him.

SHEPARD
I won’t let you down.

ASARI COUNCILOR
The trial is adjourned.

Shepard turns. Anderson gives him a hug.

ANDERSON
Congratulations, commander!

UDINA
There’s a lot of work to do Shepard. Best get to it. This is but a small victory. I’ll be awaiting mission status reports.

SHEPARD
I’m going to need a ship.

UDINA
And a crew.

Shepard looks back at Tali and Garrus.

SHEPARD
I’ve already found a worthy team.

ANDERSON
Then you can have my ship, and the operational crew who comes with it.

Shepard is shocked.

SHEPARD
Captain? The Normandy?
ANDERSON
This is your time Shepard. It’s one of the best Alliance ships we have. That, and, I’m sure the council doesn’t want me involved.

SHEPARD
I’m honored.

ANDERSON
And running out of time.

(beat)
Matriarch Benezia, I didn’t recognize her voice but I know who she is. She has a daughter, Liara T'Soni. Specializes in prothean culture and technologies. I’ll find her location and forward it onto you. It’s as good a place to start as any.

SHEPARD
I won’t let you down. I won’t let humanity down.

ANDERSON
Apprehend Saren. Stop the Geth. Find the Conduit. And if the Reapers actually exist, God help us all.

EXT. SPACE

SOVEREIGN, a massive ship, the one seen on Eden Prime, travels through space. Against the starry backdrop, only the outline is seen.

INT. SOVEREIGN

Saren sits on a throne-like chair. Palm to face, he is slouched over and not happy. MATRIARCH BENEZIA, an older asari, walks up to him. Saren doesn’t move.

BENEZIA
Reports say the Normandy has left the Citadel, but Anderson is no longer registered to it.

SAREN
Commander Shepard.
Saren POUNDS the table in front of him. The ship lets out a mechanical GRUMBLE.

SAREN (CONT’D)
He used the beacon. He knows too much.

BENEZIA
He knows nothing.

Shepard tosses the table aside, walks over to Benezia and gets in her face. Benezia is calm and not intimidated.

SAREN
This human...

Saren calms down and takes a step back.

SAREN (CONT’D)
Must be eliminated.

Saren walks toward the exit.

BENEZIA
Finding the Conduit comes first.

Saren stops but doesn’t turn.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
Shepard will perish, along with all the humans. Do you question Sovereign?

Saren turns his head in half acknowledgement.

SAREN
I do not question. But until Shepard is dealt with, he will be one more thorn in my side.

BENEZIA
Check on the facilities in Virmire. I will go to Noveria and see how the rachni research is coming.

SAREN
Shepard’s a persistent one. He’ll be even more dangerous now that he’s a spectre. I will go to Virmire and work with the other beacon. Increase the Noveria rachni tests. When Shepard comes looking, we’ll be ready.
EXT. SPACE

The Normandy exists a Mass Relay and heads toward the planet FEROS. It is covered with snow and storms.

INT. NORMANDY, ENGINEERING

A huge electrical orb is being contained by complex machinery. Tali tinkers with the controls, making slight adjustments.

INT. NORMANDY, GARAGE

Wrex works on a MAKO, a six wheel armored personal carrier. It has a cannon and machine gun turret on top. It is armored like a tank, but moves faster.

Something breaks and he PUNCHES the door. A huge dent.

INT. NORMANDY, ARMORY

Garrus and Ashley argue over adjustments to the main battery and targeting systems.

INT. NORMANDY, COCKPIT

Shepard joins Joker in the cockpit. Kaidan sits in the copilot's chair. Shepard uses the intercom.

    SHEPARD
    Approaching Feros. Ashley, Garrus, prepare for ground drop. We don’t know if Liara is working for Saren. Joker, take us in slowly, let’s be careful.

Shepard clicks the intercom off.

    JOKER
    Put the Normandy in my hands, I’ll make her dance... just don’t ask me to. Unless you like the sound of snapping shin bones.

    SHEPARD
    Right. Vrolik syndrome. Your bones are too brittle for combat, so, how’d you land this gig anyway?

Joker looks at Shepard, offended.
JOKER
I’m not good. I’m not even great.
I’m the best damn helmsman in the
alliance fleet. Top of my class in
flight school. I earned that. The
accommodations in my file? I earned
them too. You want me as your
pilot.

SHEPARD
Woah, now.

JOKER
Just sayin.

EXT. FEROS - DAY

The Normandy lands in front of a huge office building. A sign
displays the company, ExoGeni. Ashley, Garrus, and Shepard
exit.

GARRUS
I don’t understand why it’s just
us.

SHEPARD
You don’t bring an army into
corporate offices.

INT. EXOGENI, LOBBY

Shepard forces the door open. He walks inside. An empty
building. Shepard walks over to the front desk and does some
typing at the computer console.

SHEPARD
She’s in the lab at sub-level C.

Shepard looks around.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Elevators over there.

Faint FOOTSTEPS. Shepard freezes. He motions with his hands.
A geth patrol.

No sooner than they take cover do eight geth troopers appear
around a hallway corner. They walk right past Shepard and
team. One stops and notices the open door. Shepard motions
for no movement, there will be no attack.
The geth move on and continue down another hallway. Shepard motions for them to follow him to the elevator. It DINGS when opening and breaks the tension. Ashley laughs.

GARRUS
That corporate army would be pretty helpful right about now.

They enter the elevators, Shepard gives them a glare.

INT. EXOGENI, BASEMENT LAB

A research laboratory. Computers stations and testing areas.

Shepard’s team exit the elevators. They spot LIARA, an early adult asari, frozen in mid-air. Behind her is a huge room, occupied by a menacing plant, the THORIAN. Two geth troopers guard her. They see Shepard and radio to other geth. Shepard’s team SHOOT and destroy them.

SHEPARD
Liara T’Soni? What happened here?

LIARA
Thank the Goddess! I did not think anybody would come looking for me. I was doing research on the Thorian when the geth arrived. They took everybody! I don’t know what they did with them. I’m the only one left.

ASHLEY
How do we know you aren’t working with them?

Liara is confused.

LIARA
Does it look like I am?

ASHLEY
Your mother has been. Like mother like daughter.

LIARA
My mother? I haven’t spoken to her in years.

The elevator DINGS. Floor numbers show it going up.

SHEPARD
Is there a back way out?
LIARA
We’d have to go through the Thorian lab. It’s not safe.

Garrus walks up to a nearby console and shuts off the barrier field keeping Liara in place.

LIARA (CONT’D)
Thank you.

The elevator is coming back down. Liara runs to her computer and puts in a disk.

SHEPARD
What are you doing?

LIARA
Years of data. It’s too important!

SHEPARD
Not more than your life. Shepard rips the disk out.

DING! The elevator doors open. Shepard and team draw their weapons. They aim at the doors. Empty.

ASHLEY
I was... not expecting that.

A SNAP. The elevator falls down the shaft. Geth troopers rope down the elevator shaft into the room.

GARRUS
I choose the plant.

SHEPARD
Agreed.

LIARA
This way!

Liara runs to the back of the room. She types in a passcode and a sealed door opens into the huge room containing the Thorian.

INT. EXOGENI, THORIAN CHAMBER

The Thorian is massive. A three story tall menacing plant. Catwalks circle the room, around the plant. A glass ceiling let’s in light from above. The door closes behind the team.
LIARA
Up the catwalks! There’s an exit at ground level.

The team runs up the catwalks.

ASHLEY
Care to explain why the geth locked you up?

The lab door is blown open. Dozens of geth enter. Bullets wildly shoot everywhere.

SHEPARD
Better talk fast.

LIARA
The Thorian is an indigenous lifeform here. ExoGeni build this facility on Feros specifically to study it.

More bullets. They hit the Thorian. A large GROAN. The Thorian’s branches and vines begin to move. Slow at first. Then, SNAP. It whips one of the geth. It smashes against the wall and crumbles to the floor. Spores spout out from the tips of it’s vines. Alarms trigger. Lights flash.

PA SYSTEM (V.O.)
Please discharge all weapons while in research lab alpha. Do not disrupt Species 37. I repeat...

The team continues, one-third of the way up the catwalks.

GARRUS
It’s attacking?

LIARA
More than that. It releases those spores and when inhaled allow it to control other organisms.

SHEPARD
Mind control?

LIARA
Something like that, yes.

ASHLEY
You were studying this... thing? How do we know you’re not affected?
LIARA
You wouldn’t know. But I’m not. I’m very careful.

A Thorian vine SMASHES the catwalk in front of them. There’s a large gap. Shepard motions to jump. Ashley goes first.

LIARA (CONT’D)
The geth arrived a few days ago.

Garrus jumps over. The vine aggressively moves toward the team. Shepard fires.

LIARA (CONT’D)
A turian arrived with them, someone named Saren, demanding I give him the cipher. He was also interested in the Thorian’s telepathic abilities.

SHEPARD
Saren?

Liara jumps across. Shepard follows. They continue up the catwalk.

LIARA
Yes. And Sovereign. I think that was his ship, but he spoke as if he was here on it’s behalf. Saren spoke of indoctrination. Of bending organics to his will. And rachni.

More gun shots. The geth are closing the gap. Two-thirds up the catwalk.

ASHLEY
And we’re supposed to believe you’re on our side?

LIARA
I refused to cooperate with them. Saren left and the geth put me in that barrier field until you came to rescue me.

The Thorian is getting more violent.

JOKER
(over radio)
Joker to ground team, need an eta. We’ve got got company.
Shepard looks back at the geth. They are close. The Thorian grabs one and flings it toward the team. They duck as it crashes against the wall.

SHEPARD
I think we found them.

JOKER
(over radio)
When was the last time you looked outside?

Shepard looks up and out the ceiling window. A GETH WARSHIP passes overhead. Shepard looks toward the exit. Almost there.

SHEPARD
Hold on, Joker! Ready for pick-up in 30 seconds!

The exit is in reach with geth right behind them now. Garrus blasts open the exit door. A vine trips Shepard. Liara turns around and summands a ball of blue energy. She shoots it at the geth. They go flying in all directions. She summons another and fires it at the lab below. She is tired and out of breath after. Shepard gets up.

GARRUS
Holding out on us?

LIARA
The lab is full of unstable elements. We don’t have much time.

SHEPARD
Let’s get out of here.

More geth continue up the catwalk.

EXT. FEROS
The team exits and board the Normandy.

Geth exit the lab and fire at the Normandy as it takes off. A huge explosion blows up the facility.

The Normandy is just out of blast range. The geth warship futility fires at them. They escape.

EXT. SPACE
The Normandy leaves Feros’s atmosphere.
INT. NORMANDY CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Shepard, Ashley, Kaidan, Wrex, Garrus, Tali, and Liara sit in a circular formation.

WREX
I would have joined you had I known there’d be geth!

Wrex pounds his fists together.

SHEPARD
Had I known that I would have waited for back-up.

GARRUS
Liara, back on the catwalks you mentioned Saren spoke of rachni? And a cipher?

KAIDAN
The rachni have been extinct for centuries.

WREX
Yeah. Thanks to krogan! You’re welcome. No more space bugs.

KAIDAN
Why would Saren have interest in another extinct race?

Shepard hits the intercom.

JOKER
(sarcastic)
Commander! Nice work back there. Ten more seconds and we would have been swimming in fire. The Normandy isn’t equipped to land in exploding buildings. It tends to fry our sensors and melt our hull! ...Just for future reference.

SHEPARD
Joker, call alliance command. Let me know if they’ve heard any reports of rachni.

JOKER
Right. That makes sense too. While I’m at it I’ll check how the search for the boogey-man is coming. Can never be too careful.
Shepard closes the link.

Shepard closes the link.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
What else did you mention? The... cipher?

LIARA
History. Culture. The very existence of a past civilization.

The room is confused.

LIARA (CONT’D)
The Thorian was ancient. It watched and studied the protheans of old, just as it did now with humans. The cipher is the very essence of being a prothean. Endemic ancestral memory. A viewpoint spanning thousands of prothean generations.

ASHLEY
Now how about in a way that makes sense?

LIARA
I melded with the Thorian. Our identities merged, minds intertwined. I gained the cipher of what it is to be prothean. This is what Saren wanted.

Ashley stands up. She walks over to Liara and gets right in her face

ASHLEY
I thought you said you didn’t cooperate with him?

LIARA
It was that, or death. I transferred the cipher to him. But it is useless without reference.

SHEPARD
The prothean vision from the beacon! He’ll use the cipher to decode the vision and find the Conduit.
ASHLEY
Great.

KAIDAN
So Saren can understand prothean now?

TALI
And so, Saren stays one step ahead of us.

SHEPARD
Liara. Give me the cipher. I experienced the same vision.

ASHLEY
Don’t do it commander. I don’t trust her.

SHEPARD
I’ll make that call.

Ashley is put off by the commander’s choice.

LIARA
You? Had the same vision?

SHEPARD
Yes. The same beacon.

Shepard walks to the center of the group. Liara gets up and has to nudge her way past Ashley.

LIARA
When I transfer you the cipher, for a moment, we will be as one.

SHEPARD
I’m ready.

ASHLEY
Wait. How come you didn’t see Saren’s vision?

LIARA
He blocked it from me. Shepard has to be willing to open his mind and let me in.

Ashley takes a step forward.

ASHLEY
Be careful, skipper.
LIARA
The vision you had must be unclear, confusing without the cipher. It was meant for a prothean mind.

Liara puts her hands on each side of Shepard’s head.

LIARA (CONT’D)
Such knowledge cannot be taught. It simply exists. Relax. Embrace eternity.

Shepard and Liara lock eyes. There are pulses of energy transferred between them. The crew watches in awe. Ashley doesn’t want to look.

The images in Shepard’s head are not scrambled anymore. Liara and Shepard witness it together. The transfer ends with a final burst of energy.

Liara stumbles back into her chair. Shepard takes a few steps back. Ashley rushes over to the commander. Tali and Kaidan check on Liara.

ASHLEY
Are you alright? What’d she do to you?

SHEPARD
I saw... something. It’s more clear now, but...

LIARA
That was incredible. All this time, I never dreamed... I’m sorry. The images were so vivid. That was... intense. I’m surprised, Shepard. The beacon, the cipher, what you’ve been through would have destroyed a lesser mind.

ASHLEY
Yeah. Right. What did you see?

LIARA
The beacon on Eden Prime must have been badly damaged. Large parts of the vision are missing.

ASHLEY
You’re the prothean expert. Any clues? The location of the Conduit?
LIARA
It’s a warning. It confirmed what you suspected about the Reapers. The protheans were wiped out by a race of sentient machines. It explains why there’s remarkably little archeological evidence of the fall of the protheans. As if someone didn’t want the mystery solved.

TALI
So, these reapers. They exterminate the protheans. Then scour the galaxy erasing the evidence. Why?

LIARA
According to my findings, the protheans were not the first galactic civilization to mysteriously vanish. This cycle began long before them.

ASHLEY
Then how come I’ve never heard that before?

LIARA
I’ve been researching this for fifty years. I’ve tracked down every scrap of evidence I can find. Eventually, subtle patterns start to emerge. They hint at the truth. I cannot point to one specific thing to prove my case, it’s more a feeling from a half century of research. But, feelings do not receive scientific publish.

GARRUS
Then thy would Saren partner with reapers?

LIARA
It... doesn’t make sense. Each time a great civilization rises up, it is suddenly and violently cast down. Only ruins survive. I can only imagine they’ve offered Saren something in return.

KAIDAN
Which is great, but that doesn’t help us find the Conduit.

(MORE)
KAIDAN (CONT'D)
Without that, the Reapers will still return.

There is BUZZ from the intercom.

JOKER
Commander, I found your boogey-man.

EXT. SPACE
The Normandy flies into a Mass Relay and shoots off into the stars.

EXT. EDOLUS - DAY
The Normandy heads toward the planet Edolus. It is a dust covered world, with vast deserts.

EXT. EDOLUS UPPER ATMOSPHERE
Dust storms ROCK the Normandy.

JOKER
(on radio)
Commander, it’s not worth the risk landing here. You’re going to have to take the mako.

The back of the Normandy opens up, revealing the mako.

SHEPARD
We’re in, and ready.

JOKER
(on radio)
Deploying now.

The mako exits the Normandy.

EXT. EDOLUS
The mako falls to the planet surface. Propulsion jets soften the landing. They are below the storms and it is more clear.

INT. MAKO
Kaidan drives. Tali sits next to him. Shepard and Wrex sit in the back.
TALI
500 meters to crash site. No sign of rachni yet.

WREX
Something feels off.
(beat)
I like it.

SHEPARD
I need everyone on full alert.
Remember the reason why we’re here.
The last alliance team went off the grid as soon as they touched down.

TALI
100 meters. I’m getting a clear signal from the site. A distress call.

The team look out the front of the mako. A lone tower, 10 feet high, is surrounded by debris. A few Alliance soldiers suits lay among the debris. Looking farther around the area are large collapsed holes in the ground. The mako slows to a stop.

WREX
Well, this is our stop.

EXT. DEBRIS SITE
Shepard and Wrex exit the mako. Wrex examines the debris closer. Shepard walks up to the tower.

SHEPARD
It doesn’t make any sense.

WREX
Seems obvious to me. Your alliance friends crashed here. Probably attacked by rachni, then they contacted alliance command.

SHEPARD
No. They wouldn’t have set-up this signal. It’s too perfect.

The ground RUMBLES. Wrex draws his shotgun.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
We’ve been set-up.
Wrex
About time. I was getting bored.

Wrex anxiously looks around. The RUMBLE grows.

A THRESHER MAW shoots out of ground next to the mako. The thresher maw is 100 feet high, it’s body like a centipede. It’s head has a huge mouth with two mandibles on the side.

The mako flips over from the impact. The Thresher Maw spits acid at the mako, SPARKS. Wrex and Shepard look at each other and run different directions. Shepard radios to the mako.

Shepard
Kaidan, how long until you’re back online?

INT. MAKO

Tali is in the back of the flipped mako. Wires hang, sparks fly, and lights flash.

Kaidan
Not soon enough. You’ll need to be creative.

EXT. DEBRIS SITE

The Thresher Max spits acid toward Shepard. He dodges it just in time.

Shepard
(into radio)
So will you!

INT. MAKO

Tali rips out some wires and connects others.

Tali
Reroute the shields to the propulsion system. Shut down emergency systems and fully power the plasma cannon. We’ll have one shot.

Tali joins Kaidan up front and sits in the copilot chair. Kaidan is flipping switches and pressing buttons. Kaidan is about to hit the final button when Tali grabs his hand.
EXT. DEBRIS SITE

The thresher maw nears Shepard. Wrex throws a grenade as high as he can. It explodes next to the thresher maw’s head. It becomes disoriented. It dives back into the ground.

RUMBLING. Shepard and Wrex run back toward the mako, a half mile away. Behind them the thresher maw bursts back out of the ground in pursuit. It’s massive body lunges in and out of the ground after them.

Wrex fires back while running. It’s bullets hardly distract it. Shepard looks at the mako.

SHEPARD
(to self)
What are they waiting on?

INT. MAKO

TALI
Hold...

KAIDAN
We’re out of time!

Kaidan goes to press the button but is blocked by Tali again.

EXT. DEBRIS SITE

The Thresher Maw is in reach of Shepard and Wrex. The mako is close, but they won’t make it. The thresher maw prepares it’s final lunge.

INT. MAKO

TALI
NOW!

Kaidan punches the button.

EXT. DEBRIS SITE

The mako’s propulsion system fire-up. The mako flips itself back over. The mako’s plasma cannon locks onto the Thresher Maw.
INT. MAKO

Tali aims at her target. She fires.

EXT. DEBRIS SITE

The Thresher Maw is coming down on Shepard and Wrex. Wrex blasts the Thresher Maw once more with his shotgun. It EXPLODES in a mess of goo. Shepard and Wrex look at his gun confused.

SHEPARD
(to Wrex)
Nice shot.

TALI
You’re welcome!

Wrex and Shepard turn. Tali stands next to the mako. Smoke leaves the mako’s cannon.

EXT. EDOLUS MOUNTAINS - LATER

The mako heads toward a mountain range, it’s barely drivable. In the far background they leave the debris site behind.

INT. MAKO

KAIDAN
Are you sure this is the right direction?

TALI
Positive. It’s a faint signal, but there’s definitely someone else here.

EXT. EDOLUS MOUNTAINS

The mako clears a mountain ridge and reveals a set of doors built into the side of a mountain.

The mako stops. The entire team gets out.

SHEPARD
Now we find out what’s really going on here.

Shepard leads the team up to the doors. There’s no visible way to open them.
WREX
Excuse me.

Shepard steps aside. Wrex steps back.

SHEPARD
So, you going to open it, or...?

Wrex laughs. He charges at the door. SMASH. The team looks at the door, dented by still standing. Wrex gives it blow. It falls down. Wrex smiles.

WREX
After you.

INT. CERBERUS LAB, ENTRANCE

The team enters. A pristine white staircase leads down into the mountain. There’s a CERBERUS SYMBOL on the wall. The team sees a security camera looking at them.

KAIDAN
If the door didn’t give it away, they definitely know we’re here now.

TALI
Who are these people?

Shepard looks at the symbol with destain.

SHEPARD
Cerberus.

The team draws their weapons and head down the stairs.

INT. CERBERUS LAB

The team reach the bottom of the stairs. A research lab stretches deep into the mountain. Scientists in lab coats notice the team but keep working.

SHEPARD
I don’t get it.

Tali studies their actions.

TALI
They’re erasing the data!
Shepard runs into the lab trying to stop the scientists. Kaidan and Tali follow. There’s too many. Wrex shoots his shotgun. Silence.

WREX
So, about that thresher maw back there. Who wants to explain it.

Nobody speaks. Wrex shoots a computer.

WREX (CONT’D)
Please, continue to test my patience.

The LEAD SCIENTIST walks forward as if on death row.

LEAD SCIENTIST
(sighs)
I’m in charge.

Wrex nods to Shepard.

SHEPARD
We’re looking for rachni. And answers.

INT. CERBERUS LAB, HOLDING CELLS

The scientist leads the team into the holding cells area.

LEAD SCIENTIST
It’s actually quite fascinating. The chance to test on a race thought to be extinct? Priceless!

They walk by cells titled THORIAN CREEPERS. Inside are what looks to be walking mummified humans.

SHEPARD
You were testing on humans! It’s not fascinating. It’s disgusting.

More cells, titled THRESHER MAW. Inside the different cells are eggs and baby thresher maw.

LEAD SCIENTIST
Possibly. But it’s what I’m paid for. You don’t have to like our means, but Cerberus always get what we want.
TALI
You’re a radical human terrorist group!

LEAD SCIENTIST
Please. We promote human expansion in the galaxy. To secure ourselves a rightful and permanent spot among the races of the universe. Self-serving? Maybe. Terrorist? I don’t think so.

TALI
Then why test on your own kind?

LEAD SCIENTIST
Like I said. By any means necessary... we get the results we need.

They stop in front of cells labeled RACHNI. Space bugs. Their top half looks similar to shrimp, supported by four legs underneath it.

LEAD SCIENTIST (CONT’D)
And in this case, it meant luring Alliance soldiers into a trap. We had to see what the rachni were capable of in a fight.

SHEPARD
And the thresher maw?

LEAD SCIENTIST
The facility has been around long before we got our hands on rachni. That’s only the latest round of testing.

SHEPARD
Where’d you get the rachni from.

LEAD SCIENTIST
I can’t tell you that.

Wrex pulls out his shotgun and shoot one of the rachni. It explodes into pieces.

LEAD SCIENTIST (CONT’D)
No! You can’t-

Wrex aims the gun at the scientist.
Right. Okay. I might be able to help you out.

I got them from Noveria.

Wrex

Go on.

Cerberus has contacts all over. We... borrowed them. An asari matriarch was trying to clone them or something. I can give you their facility’s location. Just,

Let me live.

EXT. EDOLUS MOUNTAINS - LATER

The sun shines. The dust storms are gone. The scientists stand outside the facility. The mako drives aboard the Normandy and they take off. As they leave an explosion is heard from within the mountain. Fire erupts out the entrance doors.

LEAD SCIENTIST

Someone call the Illusive Man.

EXT. NOVERIA - DAY

A frozen rocky world. Covered in snow. The Normandy flies toward the surface.

NOVERIA CONTROL (O.S.)

We are not expecting any arrivals today. Please identify. We have you targeted and are prepared to fire.

EXT. NOVERIA PORT

The Normandy hovers outside the docking area.

Joker (O.S.)

Approach Control, this is the SSV Normandy. Arriving on official Council business. We have a spectre on board.
NOVERIA CONTROL (O.S.)
Denied. The Council has no business
on Noveria.
(beat)
Welcome Normandy. We will be
checking identification upon
landing, or risk being impounded.

The Normandy docks.

INT. NOVERIA PORT - LATER

Shepard exits the Normandy with Liara and Ashley. Waiting for
them are two PORT WORKERS and PORT CHIEF PARASINI, a
confident women in her mid-30’s.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
Just the Spectre. Nobody else
leaves the dock.

SHEPARD
We all go.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
This is an unscheduled arrival. I
need your credentials.

SHEPARD
You first.

PORT WORKER
Excuse me? We’re the law here.

Parasini gives a silent ‘stand down’ look to the worker.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
Gianna Parasini, Risk Management.
You’re a long way from the Citadel,
spectre.

ASHLEY
You’re a short way from a gun in
your face.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
I also must remind you no weapons
are allowed on Noveria.

SHEPARD
Spectre status overrules Noveria
law. We have urgent business here.
We’re heard reports of rachni.
PORT CHIEF PARASINI
Yes... the rachni. You being here is troubling, but the reports I’ve heard of rachni are worse.

ASHLEY
So it’s true.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
I don’t know. Lady Benezia keeps to herself, but, I’ve heard rumors of what goes on in her labs.

LIARA
Benezia? She... is here?

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
She hasn’t done anything wrong, yet. I’m not allowed to arrest her for being suspicious.

SHEPARD
She’s a threat to galactic peace. I’m here to bring her in, or,

Shepard looks over at Liara.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
We’re here to bring her in. Council orders.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI
Take the tram to Peak 15. Only the three of you. My superiors aren’t happy that we allowed you to land to begin with. Here,

Parasini gives Shepard a keycard.

PORT CHIEF PARASINI (CONT’D)
Unlimited access to the Peak 15 facility. For 3 hours. Do what you need to do, and get out of Noveria.

EXT. NOVERIA TRAM - DAY
A tram car leaves the Noveria port. It heads toward a large building near the top of a hill. Even from far away, a large “15” is painted on the front of the building.
EXT. PEAK 15

The tram enters Peak 15. Door seal them inside.

INT. PEAK 15, DOCK

The team exits the tram. Cement walls. The few windows on the ceiling are cracked. Snow covers the ground. Metal CREAKS from the interior of the facility. There’s a single door.

ASHLEY
This place is in great shape.

Shepard tries the door. It doesn’t open. Scans keycard. The door opens.

INT. PEAK 15, MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

The team enter a mess hall. A few humans eat scraps. Others sleep. One is being tended by a doctor. An OFFICER runs up to Shepard.

OFFICER
By God! I thought nobody would ever come! We’ve been locked in for days!

SHEPARD
What’s the situation.

OFFICER
Bugs. Zillions of them. They overran the hot labs last week. We’re not military! We were never trained for this!

Ashley checks her ammo.

SHEPARD
We’ll look into it.

OFFICER
(panicked)
The mess hall isn’t safe. It was supposed to temporary. We have search teams. They go to other floors looking for food or survivors. Most don’t come back. There’s another group of us in the gym, and the library. Benezia won’t let us leave!
LIARA
I refuse to believe my mother has anything to do with this.

FOOTSTEPS. Something crawls from above the ceiling. The mess hall goes silent. Guns and eyes focus on the footsteps. There’s a SCREECHING sound. The footsteps continue, and soon trail off. Shepard shows the officer his keycard.

SHEPARD
Tell me where Matriarch Benezia is. I find her, and we all leave. Alive.

The officer points toward one of the room’s exits.

OFFICER
End of that hallway. Straight ahead. Past the hot labs. In the main research chamber.

Shepard motions for the team to head out.

INT. PEAK 15, HALLWAY

The team heads down the hallway. A SCREECH in the distance. FOOTSTEPS above the ceiling and along the wall.

ASHLEY
I hate aliens.

LIARA
Beg your pardon?

ASHLEY

Ashley looks at Liara.

ASHLEY (CONT’D)
Even a backstabbing Asari Matriarch.

LIARA
I’m not like her!

ASHLEY
I’m still not sold on which side you’re on.
LIARA
I’m on nobody’s side! What about the Cerberus scientists?

Ashley has no answer.

LIARA (CONT’D)
No species is perfect. Not mine.
Not yours-

SHEPARD
Alright, that’s enough. Keep your focus on the mission.

A rachni bursts out from a hallway door. Shepard and Ashley shoot. The rachni explodes.

They continue. Glass windows allow them to see into a lab. Darkness and shadows. The ground moves.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Run!

The team run down the hallway. Rachni crash through the window behind them. They fall through the ceiling ahead of them, and behind them. There’s at least a dozen.

Shepard and Ashley fire at them, killing a few. They are being overwhelmed. Liara summons a ball of energy and shoots it behind them. The ball travels a few feet and stops. It starts swirling and pulls the Rachni toward it. The team reach the end of the hallway.

INT. NOVERIA, RESEARCH CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

The team enter the main research chamber. A square room. Walls covered with screens. Work stations all over. Elevated in the center of the room is huge glass capsule. Inside is the RACHNI QUEEN. She is gigantic, but scared.

Matriarch Benezia stands in front of the capsule at the main work station. Two ASARI BODYGUARDS stand next to her, watching Shepard’s team. Benezia finishes some last calculations and turns. Liara’s mouth drops.

LIARA
No.

BENEZIA
You do not know the privilege of being a mother. There is power in creation.
Benezia turns to the Rachni Queen. She marvels at it.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
To shape a life, turn it towards happiness or despair.
(beat)
Her children were to be ours. To hunt and slay Saren’s enemies.

Benezia turns to Shepard.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
I won’t be moved by sympathy. No matter who you bring here.

SHEPARD
Liara’s here because she wants to be. Not because I asked her to.

BENEZIA
And what have you told him about me, Liara?

LIARA
What could I say, mother? That you’re lost? Insane? Evil? What could I say?

BENEZIA
You could have warned him to stay out of my way!

Benezia summons energy, a blue essence surrounds her. She points at Shepard, freezing him in place. Her bodyguards run toward them.

Liara summons up a ball of energy and fires it at one of the guards. The guard is thrown backward and knocked unconscious.

Benezia tosses Shepard aside. Shepard unfreezes but is hurt. Ashley finds cover and takes aim at the second bodyguard. Liara charges toward Benezia.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
Saren is unstoppable!

Benezia unleashes a ball of energy larger than anything Liara has summoned. Liara dives out of the way.

Ashley is pinned down by the bodyguard. She is joined by Shepard.
My mind is filled with his light!
Everything is... clear!

Benezia struggles to shoot another energy ball at Liara. This time Liara deflects it. Liara grows tired.

I will not betray him. I will not...

There is an internal struggle within Benezia. She tries to restrain herself. She reluctantly fires another ball at Liara. It hits. Liara goes flying ten feet back.

The second body guard is distracted by Liara’s hit. Ashley shoots the body guard. She drops dead. Shepard and Ashley run to Liara’s side. Benezia freezes Shepard and Ashley in place.

You will... You must... listen.

Benezia again struggles, trying to release Shepard and Ashley.

Saren whispers in my mind. I can fight his compulsions briefly, but, the indoctrination is strong.

Liara struggles to stand.

Saren isn’t here. You have yourself to blame!

People aren’t themselves around Saren. You come to idolize him, worship him. You would do anything for him!

Benezia tightens control of her freeze on Ashley and Shepard. In her other hand she starts to summon a ball of energy.

The key is Sovereign. Saren’s flagship. A huge dreadnought of incredible size and extraordinary power.

Liara limps toward Benezia.
BENEZIA (CONT’D)
Thoughts echo strangely within
Sovereign. Indoctrination. The
longer you stay on board, the more
Saren’s will seems correct. You sit
at his feet and smile as his words
pour into you.

Benezia aims her energy ball at Liara.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
Saren thought we could use the
rachni as tools. Make an army. I
thought I was strong enough to
resist. Instead I became a willing
tool, eager to serve.

LIARA
You don’t have to do this.

She exhales deeply and shakes off an invisible force. Benezia
unfreezes Shepard and Ashley. They walk toward Benezia.

BENEZIA
Saren sent me here to find the
location of the Mu Mass Relay. It’s
position was lost thousands of
years ago in rachni controlled
space. The rachni share memories
across generations. Queens inherit
the knowledge of their mothers. I
took the location of the Mu Relay
from the queen’s mind.
    (sorrowful)
I was not gentle.

SHEPARD
We need that data to stop Saren.

Benezia hands over a disk.

BENEZIA
Take it. Please.

ASHLEY
Knowing the Mu Relay’s coordinates
is not enough. We need to know
where Saren plans to go after
passing through it.

BENEZIA
He wouldn’t tell me his end
destination. But, I do know where
he is now. Virmire.
    (MORE)
BENEZIA (CONT’D)
You must leave quickly. I’ve already told him the location of the Mu Relay.

Benezia is losing control. Her voice strains. She begins to cry light tears.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
You have to stop... me. I can’t. His teeth are at my ear. Fingers on my spine. You should, you need to-

LIARA
Mother! Don’t leave! Fight him!

Benezia gives Liara a look of approval.

BENEZIA
You’ve always made me proud, Liara.

Benezia bows her head. Liara watches, hoping. Benezia’s head rises back up and blue energy again surrounds her. She shoots an energy blast at Liara. It’s deflected. Benezia shoots another. Liara absorbs the blast. Benezia summons her remaining amount of energy. She shoots. Liara shoots back. The energy balls collide, blasting Benezia to the ground. Liara is worn out but walks up to Benezia, stands above her, and summons an energy ball. They lock eyes. Benezia struggles to speak.

BENEZIA (CONT’D)
Goodnight, little wing.

Liara’s energy ball vanishes. She crouches down to Benezia’s side.

LIARA
Mother!

Benezia stares off.

BENEZIA
No light? They always said there’d be...

Benezia’s eyes close. Her body goes limp. Shepard and Ashley join Liara.

SHEPARD
I’m sorry.

Liara takes a moment, but then stands with confidence.
LIARA
It had to be done. Just one more reason to find the Conduit and stop Saren.

(beat)
I would like to leave here now.

Liara takes a step and freezes.

SHEPARD
Liara?

Shepard shakes Liara. Liara hovers a couple feet off the floor. Her pupils glow.

LIARA
Do not. Leave.

It is not Liara’s voice. Liara, still hovering, drifts in front of the large Rachni Queen chamber.

RACHI QUEEN (THROUGH LIARA)
This one. Serves. As our voice.

Shepard and Ashley draw their weapons. The Rachni Queen screeches from within the tube.

RACHNI QUEEN
This vessel. Is at the edge. We cannot sing. Not in these low spaces. Your musics are colorless.

SHEPARD
Let her go or we’ll fill you with enough plasma to pop a turian tank.

RACHNI QUEEN
We are the mother. We sing. For those left behind. The children you thought silenced. We. Are rachni.

SHEPARD
Did you order your children to kill the people out there?

Shepard motions to the room entrance.

RACHNI QUEEN
No. We were. Locked away here. The children are beyond our songs. They have been lost. To silence. You. Are not in harmony with those who hoped to control us.

(MORE)
What will you sing? Will you release us? Are we to fade away once more?

ASHLEY
Commander, I don’t trust this thing, we know its kind are killers. That chamber has an emergency toxin release. I recommend using it.

RACHNI QUEEN
You have the power to free us, or return us to the silence of memory.

Ashley shakes her head no to Shepard.

RACHNI QUEEN (CONT’D)
Give us a chance to compose anew. We will remember. We will sing of your forgiveness to our children.

The Rachni Queen relinquishes control of Liara. Liara is lowered to the ground and her pupils go back to normal.

SHEPARD
Liara! Are you ok?

LIARA
Yes. I’m... fine, I’m alright. I’m more concerned about-

Liara nods to the rachni queen.

LIARA (CONT’D)
Her.

ASHLEY
There’s a reason they were hunted to extinction. We can’t just cut them loose.

LIARA
The council exterminated them once before. An entire race. Gone. She hasn’t done nothing to us. This is our chance to atone.

Shepard walks over to a console nearby. A green button pictures doors opening. A red button pictures gas with a skull and bones. The Rachni Queen looks back at Shepard. It SHRIEKS.
SHEPARD
I won’t destroy your entire race.
(beat)
You’ll go free.

Shepard hits the green button. The team watches as the chamber lifts up. Ceiling doors slide open, and the chamber releases the Rachni Queen. It scampers off with a SCREECH.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
I think we’ve all had enough here. Liara, notify the Normandy to prep for leave. Ashley, give the Alliance a head’s up. We’re going to Virmire.

EXT. VIRMIRE

From space Virmire is filled with oceans and green continents.

EXT. VIRMIRE, SAREN’S BASE – SUNRISE

A huge facility is built on top of a high cliff. Surrounding it is lush tropical jungle.

INT. SAREN’S BASE, CONTROL ROOM

Saren calmly stares out a window. The sun rises. Geth interface with computers behind him.

A GETH SOLDIER enters. Two more geth enter, holding a salarian soldier.

GETH SOLDIER
Saren Commander.

Saren continues to stare out the window.

SAREN
Yes?

GETH COMMANDER
We found another Salarian scout.

SAREN
Kill him. It means nothing.

GETH COMMANDER
No interrogation, this time?
Saren turns around.

    SAREN
    I said, kill him.

Geth Commander motions to the others. They drag the struggling Salarian away.

    GETH COMMANDER
    Saren Commander, that is the third scout. The Salarian infiltrator unit nearby will be prepping an attack.

    SAREN

Geth Commander is reluctant to respond.

    SAREN (CONT’D)
    Is there a problem?

    GETH COMMANDER
    The Rachni Queen escaped. Benezia is... dead.

Saren remains calm.

    SAREN
    Who is responsible for this?

    GETH COMMANDER
    Spectre Shepard.

Saren turns around.

    SAREN
    A setback. Sovereign won’t be pleased.

Saren waves off the Geth Commander.

    SAREN (CONT’D)
    Go. And increase Krogan production twenty percent.

Saren turns back to the window. He dislodges his gun and whips it at the nearest geth.
EXT. VIRMIRE - DAY

The Normandy flies over the jungles of Virmire.

EXT. VIRMIRE, SALARIAN CAMP

The Normandy slows down and lands in front of a hastily put together salarian base camp.

Shepard’s team exits the Normandy. Salarian CAPTAIN KIRRAHE greets them.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
Greetings Shepard! I am Captain Kirrahe. 3rd Infiltration Regiment STG. Heard Matriarch Benezia died. Unfortunate. At least you found Saren. The Council sent us and mentioned reinforcements. Where are the reinforcements?

Kirrahe looks around. He searches for other ships.

KAIDAN
We are.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
What? Just us? You? We’ll need more. Much more. We’ve been scouting ever since we landed.

Shepard starts walking toward the base camp. Kirrahe follows.

SHEPARD
The Council sent what they could spare. They aren’t willing to risk a war.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
I’ve already lost five men. Your team just replaces them. This facility is crawling with geth, and well fortified.

The team walks by a group of Salarian soldiers eating.

TALI
What else do you know?

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
Non-military. Seems to be a research facility.
INT. VIRMIRE, SALARIAN CAMP CONTROL

The team enters base camp control. Maps and blueprints are hung on the walls. Battle plans are being discussed.

LIARA
What is Saren researching?

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
We think-

Kirrahe pauses as he looks at Wrex.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE (CONT’D)
We think they’re breeding an army of Krogan.

WREX
How... is that possible? Ever since your people developed the Genophage-

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
It was necessary. Your ancestors helped defeat the rachni, but your race grew powerful. Too strong. Too violent. Genophage developed as a deterrent. Can’t help that the Turians deployed it. In the end, it saved lives.

Wrex gets in Kirrahe’s face.

WREX
Saving lives? The Genophage was a biological weapon that mutated our genes! Ninety-nine point nine percent of krogans die at birth. Save lives?

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
Apparently... Saren has found a cure.

(beat)
But it must be destroyed, along with Saren.

WREX
Destroy? I don’t think so. Our people are dying. This cure can save them.

Shepard’s pulls Wrex away.
SHEPARD
Saren tried this with the rachni. He already has the geth. We can’t allow him to build a krogan army.

Wrex shakes Shepard off.

WREX
These are my people! We don’t deserve to lose this opportunity.

Wrex walks off.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
I hope he won’t be a problem.

ASHLEY
Looks like he’s gonna blow a gasket.

SHEPARD
He’ll be fine. Right now we need to figure out how to stop Saren.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
Already working on it.

EXT. SAREN’S BASE, FRONT ENTRANCE - LATER

Geth sit behind armored turrets and snipers lay on the roof. Sets of guards patrol.

From the jungle in front of the base Captain Kirrahe stands in front twenty salarians, Garrus, Liara, and Kaidan. He paces back a forth.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
You all know the mission, and what is at stake.
(beat)
I have come to trust each of you with my life but I have also heard murmurs of discontent. I share your concerns.
(beat)
We are trained for espionage, glory in battle is not our way.
(beat)
We would be legends, but the records are sealed.
(beat)

(MORE)
CAPTAIN KIRRAHE (CONT'D)
Our influence stopped the rachni wars, but before that we held the line!
(beat)
Our influence stopped the krogan rebellions, but before that, we held the line!
(beat)
Our influence will stop Saren; in the battle today, we will hold the line!

Kirrahe signals to go.

Salarian snipers shoot the geth snipers on the roof. The rest of the geth guards are immediately altered.

Kirrahe’s team charges forward from the jungle.

EXT. SAREN’S BASE, REAR

Shepard, Ashley, Tali, and Wrex stand twenty feet away from the wall of Saren’s base.

An explosive charge sticks to the wall. Shepard presses a button. The charge EXPLODES. Debris and dust are everywhere.

INT. SAREN’S BASE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Shepard’s team enter into a hallway. It’s empty. Wrex holds a large BOMB.

PA SYSTEM
(repeating)
All units to front entrance.
Emergency.

The team runs down the hallway. Tali holds a map in her hand.

TALI
Third right. I hope this is accurate.

SHEPARD
I’d be more worried about Kirrahe than his intel. The geth will only be distracted so long. We have to move fast.

Shepard glances around a turn, at the end of the hall a geth soldier runs by. Then another. And another. Clear. The team heads down the hallway.
TALI
2nd left and down the stairs.

EXT. SAREN’S BASE, FRONT ENTRANCE

Salarian and Geth bodies cover the ground. What’s left of Kirrahe’s team are outside the main entrance. The entrance is open but geth guard it from the inside.

Kirrahe signals to the jungle. Two salarians carry a BOMB identical to the one Wrex had.

A geth soldier charges out. It shoots at the salarians. One salarian is killed. The bomb is dropped.

Garrus shoots the geth. It’s destroyed. Another salarian soldier helps continue carrying the bomb. Kirrahe shakes his head.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
Another loss. We won’t make it much further. Need to get inside. Need cover. Need Shepard.

GARRUS
Shepard will pull through. He always does.

INT. SAREN’S BASE, LAB

Krogan bodies lay on operating tables. Others krogan stand in stasis tubes, asleep. Tali fiddles with the bomb Wrex had carried. Ashley and Shepard watch.

TALI
I know the salarians didn’t have much time, but the remote trigger on this is totally busted. I’ll need at least ten minutes to get it working off a timer.

SHEPARD
Any longer than five and you risk none of us making it out alive.

Ashley takes a look around.

ASHLEY
Uh... anyone know where Wrex went?
INT. SAREN’S BASE, CONTROL ROOM

Kirrahe, Garrus and Kaidan lead the remaining salarian soldiers into the control room. A brief firefight destroys five geth.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE
No sign of Saren. Must be evacuating. No matter.

The bomb is carried in.

CAPTAIN KIRRAHE (CONT’D)
We detonate in ten. Move out.

The team heads out. A thought to be destroyed geth throws a plasma grenade. The EXPLOSION cuts off Kaidan and a few salarians from the rest of the team. Kaidan SHOOTS the geth over and over. Garrus’s voice comes through Kaidan’s radio.

GARRUS
(on radio)
Kaidan? Are you alright? We’re looking for another way in.

Kaidan surveys the room. There are no other doors.

KAIDAN
You’ll never make it. Rendezvous with Shepard. Get out of here.

GARRUS
(on radio)
We’ll come back for you Kaidan! We’ll be back.

GUNSHOTS. The radio goes silent. Kaidan slumps to the floor next to explosive device. He looks out the window.

INT. SAREN’S BASE, LAB

Wrex is arguing with a VI, virtual intelligence program. The VI appears as a human female hologram.

VI
I'm sorry, but the proper authorization code is required.

WREX
(mumbles)
Uh... Sic semper, tyranna...

Wrex COUGHS.
VI
Access denied.

WREX
Tell me what I want or I’ll blast your virtual ass into actual dust!

Shepard appears.

SHEPARD
Hey Wrex.

WREX
This isn’t right Shepard. If there’s a cure for the Genophage, we can’t destroy it!

SHEPARD
Calm down, Wrex. I’m not the enemy here. Saren is the one you should be mad at.

WREX
Really? Saren created a cure for my people. You want to destroy it. Help me out Shepard. The lines between friend and foe are getting a little blurry from where I stand.

SHEPARD
I won’t let you jeopardize the mission!

Wrex pulls out his weapon. Shepard also.

WREX
Can’t you see what this means to the krogan?

SHEPARD
Saren doesn’t care about these krogan! They’re tools! Puppets! He’ll destroy them as soon as they’re no longer useful to him. Is that what you want for your people?

Shepard lowers his gun.

WREX
No.

Wrex lowers his gun.
WREX (CONT’D)
We were used as tools once already, helping the council stop the rachni. For what? Rewarded with the Genophage.
(beat)
I doubt Saren will be as generous.

SHEPARD
You and I both know he won’t.

Ashley and Tali join Shepard.

TALI
Clocks ticking. Fifteen minutes to detonation.

There’s a tense feeling in the air.

ASHLEY
Did we miss something?

Wrex shoots the VI computer. The Hologram fizzles out.

WREX
Nothing at all.

EXT. SAREN’S BASE, DOCKING BAY

Shepard’s team races into Saren’s docking bay. There is enough space for three ships. Only two geth ships are there. Shepard activates his radio.

SHEPARD
Joker, we’re at the rendezvous point. We had to use a timer. Where are you? Where’s Kirrahe?

JOKER
(on radio)
Kirrahe’s under fire. I’m picking them up now. Back around to pick you up in ten.

SHEPARD
We won’t exist in ten.

JOKER
(on radio)
See you in eight. Joker out.

Shepard’s team looks around. A pleasant silence.
TALI
So, we just wait?

ASHLEY
Unless you know how to hotwire a geth transport.

SHEPARD
Let me see those blueprints.

Tali hands over the blueprints. Shepard takes a look. He drops the map and points at a side door. It says RESTRICTED USAGE.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
The salarians mentioned a strong energy reading coming from this room. It’s worth a look.

INT. SAREN’S BASE, BEACON ROOM

Shepard’s team enters. A prothean beacon. It’s taller and more imposing than the one on Eden Prime. A green essence surrounds it.

TALI
A working prothean beacon. Amazing. That explains the energy readings.

ASHLEY
But not why it’s here.

WREX
The closer to dock, the easier it’d be to shuttle it off planet.

The Beacon looks entrenched in the ground.

SHEPARD
That beacon could hold the missing pieces of the vision. Of the Conduit’s location.

Shepard steps forward

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Whatever happens... stay back.

The team stops. The closer Shepard walks to the beacon the more active it becomes. Circuits BUZZ. The green essence grows. Lights inside the beacon activate.
ASHLEY

Shepard!

Shepard is pulled toward the beacon. Images flash before his eyes. Shepard collapses to the ground. Ashley runs to his side and helps him to his feet.

ASHLEY (CONT’D)

Skipper...

The beacon flashes. Above the beacon a red hologram appears. It’s the massive ship from Eden Prime, SOVEREIGN.

SOVEREIGN

You are not Saren.

Shepard is still recovering.

ASHLEY

What is that? Some kind of VI interface?

SOVEREIGN

Rudimentary creatures of blood and flesh, you touch my mind, fumbling in ignorance, incapable of understanding.

TALI

I don't think this is a VI...

SOVEREIGN

There is a realm of existence so far beyond your own you cannot even imagine it. I am beyond your comprehension. I am Sovereign.

SHEPARD

Sovereign isn't just some Reaper ship Saren found. It's an actual Reaper!

The team takes a step back.

SOVEREIGN

Reaper? A label created by the protheans to give voice to their destruction. In the end, what they chose to call us is irrelevant. We simply... are.
Wrex
The protheans vanished over 50,000 years ago. You couldn't have been there, it's impossible!

Sovereign
Organic life is nothing but a genetic mutation, an accident. Your lives are measured in years and decades. You wither and die. We are eternal, the pinnacle of evolution and existence. Before us, you are nothing. Your extinction is inevitable. We are the end of everything.

Shepard
Whatever your plan is, it's going to fail. I'll make sure of that.

Sovereign
Confidence born of ignorance. The cycle cannot be broken.

Ashley
Cycle? What cycle?

Sovereign
The pattern has repeated itself more times than you can fathom. Organic civilizations rise, evolve, advance, and at the apex of their glory they are extinguished. The protheans were not the first. They did not create the Citadel. They did not forge the mass relays. They merely found them - the legacy of my kind.

Shepard
Why would you construct the mass relays and leave them for someone else to find?

Sovereign
Your civilization is based on the technology of the mass relays. Our technology. By using it, your civilization develops along the paths we desire. We impose order on the chaos of organic evolution. You exist because we allow it, and you will end because we demand it.
TALI
They're harvesting us! Letting us advance to the level they need, then wiping us out!

SHEPARD
What do you want from us? Slaves? Resources?

SOVEREIGN
My kind transcends your very understanding. We are each a nation - independent, free of all weakness. You cannot grasp the nature of our existence.

SHEPARD
Where did you come from? Who built you?

SOVEREIGN
We have no beginning. We have no end. We are infinite. Millions of years after your civilization has been eradicated and forgotten, we will endure.

SHEPARD
Where are the rest of the Reapers? Are you the last of your kind?

SOVEREIGN
We are legion. The time of our return is coming. Our numbers will darken the sky of every world. You cannot escape.

SHEPARD
You're not even alive! Not really. You're just a machine, and machines can be broken!

SOVEREIGN
Your words are as empty as your future. I am the vanguard of your destruction. This exchange is over.

The hologram shuts down. A low GRUMBLE. Ship engines turning on.

SHEPARD
The docking bay!
INT. SAREN’S BASE, DOCKING BAY

Saren and geth soldiers board the farthest ship. Shepard’s team enter the docking bay.

Shepard tries to shoot Saren but the second ship, between them, blocks his view. Shepard’s team uses the ship as cover.

Saren’s ship continues it’s departure preparations. Landing gear folds in.

Saren stands in the door frame. Shepard has a clear shot. He Shoots. Saren blocks the shot. He is protecting himself with a blue energy shield.

SAREN
I applaud you Shepard. My Geth were utterly convinced the salarians were the only threat. An impressive diversion. Of course, it’s all for nothing. You can’t possibly understand what’s really at stake.

Shepard yells from his cover.

SHEPARD
It’s not complicated. You crave power. And you’re willing to partner with anyone to get it. Even the Reapers.

SAREN
Shepard. You’ve seen the visions from the beacon. You of all people should know what the Reapers are capable of. They cannot be stopped. Do not mire yourself in pointless revolt. Do not sacrifice everything for the sake of petty freedoms. The protheans tried to fight, but were utterly destroyed. Trillions dead.

Shepard takes aims again at Saren.

SAREN (CONT’D)
But what if they had bowed before their invaders? Would the protheans still exist? Is submission not preferable to extinction?

SHEPARD
I’d rather die than live under the rule of those machine!
Shepard fires. Blocked by Saren.

SAREN
Now you see why I never came forward with this to the council. We organics are driven by emotion instead of logic. We will fight. Even when we know we cannot win. But, if we work with the Reapers. If we make ourselves useful, think how many lives could be spared.

Saren’s ship begins to hover. It’s engines IGNITE.

SAREN (CONT’D)
Once I understood this, I joined Sovereign. I was aware of the dangers.

SHEPARD
You’re just another blind tool for Sovereign. Indoctrinated. In the end he’s just going to toss you aside.

SAREN
Do not lecture me on indoctrination. A tool? Maybe. But useful. My way is the only way any of us will survive. Sovereign’s victory is absolute.

SHEPARD
You were a spectre. You were sworn to defend the galaxy!

SAREN
I am forging an alliance, and in doing so, will save more lives than have ever existed! You will undo my work. Undo civilizations salvation. I will not let that happen. We will meet again Shepard. And on that day, salvation will come.

Saren presses a button. The door shuts. The transport takes off. Shepard’s team shoots futilely after them. Shepard gets on his radio.

SHEPARD
Joker, where are you?
KAIDAN
(over radio)
He should be any second. Picked up Kirrahe’s team five minutes ago.

SHEPARD
Kaidan? Where are you?

KAIDAN
(over radio)
I’m not coming back with you, Sir.

The Normandy arrives. Shepard’s team boards. Geth enter the docking bay. They fire at the Normandy.

SHEPARD
No soldier left behind!

KAIDAN
(over radio)
I appreciate the gesture, but you and I both know if you come back for me, nobody makes it out alive. It was a pleasure serving under you.

INT. SAREN’S BASE, CONTROL ROOM

Kaidan switches off his radio. He watches the Normandy leave.

KAIDAN
God speed.

INT. NORMANDY, COMMAND DECK

Shepard watches Saren’s base fade into the distance. It explodes. A moment. The whole team has been watching.

SHEPARD
If we don’t find the Conduit. If we don’t stop Saren. If we don’t eliminate the Reapers, all is lost. Kaidan died for nothing. Kirrahe’s men died for nothing. We’ve come a long way, but it’s far from over.

(beat)
Joker, set course for the citadel. Liara, we found another beacon, I’ll need to join minds again. This vision was complete. It may hold the key to the finding the Conduit.
EXT. VIRMIRE

The Normandy exits the Virmire atmosphere.

INT. CITADEL TOWER – EVENING

Citadel Tower is full of people, a busy day.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL

Shepard, Liara, and Ashley reach the council at the top of the steps. Two TURIAN CITIZENS and an ASARI CITIZEN are speaking with the council.

SHEPARD
Urgent matter. Spectre clearance.

Shepard and team walk in front of the turians and asari.

TURIAN CITIZEN
I’ve never heard such a thing! I’ve waited weeks to speak to the council!

SHEPARD
You’ll need to wait another few minutes.

Ashley and Liara form a wall. The aliens step back and give up their protesting.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Shepard. We read your report. No need for these... heroics.

SHEPARD
You read the report, and yet you do nothing!

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
You’ve exposed Saren. Destroyed his plans. He’ll be on the run now.

SHEPARD
Saren isn’t the real threat!

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
Saren still has an army of geth. Is that not a threat?
TURIAN COUNCILOR
The Citadel joint-species fleet is gathering. When ready, we will go after Saren.

SHEPARD
We need to go now. Saren is on the way to the Conduit! If he activates it, the Reapers have already won.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Ah yes, Reapers. Again. There’s still no proof they exist.

SHEPARD
They already wiped out the protheans! If we do nothing, we’re next.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
There is no evidence Reapers, or Sovereign being a Reaper, exists.

SHEPARD
You didn’t believe me about Saren either. Sooner or later you’re going to have to take something I say on faith, counselors!

TURIAN COUNCILOR
You humans have a saying... even a broken clock is right twice a day.

SHEPARD
We have another saying. Go to hell!

ASARI COUNCILOR
Enough! Commander Shepard, you performed admirably so far. Still, Saren is a recognizable threat, while the Reapers only exist in your visions.

Shepard looks at Liara.

LIARA
The Virmire beacon was intact, a complete vision! It is... was, a distress call. A message sent out across the prothean Empire. A warning against the Reapers, but, the warning came to late. It points to Ilos, the location of the Conduit.

(MORE)
Only accessible through the long lost, and now found, Mu Relay.

Ambassador Udina rushes up to the council chamber.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
The Mu Relay is not in Citadel Space. Eventually, Saren will leave the system. Until then, we will gather our own fleet.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
Our decisions effect trillions of lives.

Udina pulls Shepard’s aside for a personal talk.

UDINA
Shepard, now is the time for discretion! The Council is prepping a fleet. What more do you want?

Shepard brushes off Udina and turns back to the council.

SHEPARD
If Saren finds the Conduit, we’re all screwed. I’m going to Ilos!

TURIAN COUNCILOR
Ambassador Udina, I’m afraid Shepard isn’t going to let this go.

UDINA
There are serious political implications here Shepard. Humanity has made great gains thanks to you, but now you’re becoming more trouble than you’re worth.

ASHLEY
You’re selling us out!

UDINA
Just politics. You’ve done your job. Now, let me do mine.

Udina addresses the Council.

UDINA (CONT’D)
I’ll see that the Normandy be grounded until further notice. Shepard, I think it’s time for you to go. The Council can handle this themselves, with my help of course.
Shepard doesn’t move. The Council and Udina look back at him, impatient. Shepard realizes he isn’t going to win them over. He turns and leaves. Liara and Ashley share a disappointed glance and follow him out.

EXT. FLUX BAR - NIGHT

In the Citadel Presidium, the Neon sign FLUX illuminates.

INT. FLUX BAR - CONTINUOUS

It is a trendy nightclub. Dance music blares, lights flash, and aliens are dancing. Shepard, drink in hand, sits alone. He looks out to the crowd. A bartender serves a group of asari friends. Tourists get their picture taken in front of a keeper. A couple feed each other food, and kiss.

SHEPARD

They don’t even know.

Captain Anderson walks up the table and takes a seat.

ANDERSON

I know.

Shepard does a double take.

ANDERSON (CONT’D)

I know you’re pissed off right now, but you can’t give up. They all think this is over, but we both know it’s not. You must go to Ilos and stop Saren from using the Conduit!

SHEPARD

There’s only one ship that can make it through the Terminus Systems undetected, and she’s grounded.

ANDERSON

Udina issued the lockdown order, he can also release it. Using his office computer, I’ll be able to send an official message to Citadel Control and override the lockdown.

SHEPARD

Come on, Anderson! He’s not going to allow you into his office.
ANDERSON
Hopefully he won’t be there. If he is... I’ll just have to think of something.

SHEPARD
Udina won’t let this slide. He’ll charge you with treason!

ANDERSON
We’re out of options.

SHEPARD
What about my crew? They’re all over the Citadel.

ANDERSON
Already told them you’re on your way.

Shepard smiles.

ANDERSON (CONT’D)
You ready to get the hell off this station, Commander?

Shepard pounds his fist against the table.

SHEPARD
Let’s do this.

ANDERSON
I’ll take care of the lockdown, you get to the Normandy and tell Joker to standby. You’ll be on Ilos before anyone knows you’re gone.

Shepard stands. Anderson stands.

SHEPARD
Jail and certain death. I always pictured happier outcomes for us.

ANDERSON
I wouldn’t have it any other way.

EXT. CITADEL, HANGER - LATER

The Normandy sits silently in the Citadel hanger. Two large cranes hold the Normandy firmly in place.
INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Shepard stands behind Joker. They stare at a large red button on the main cockpit console. It fades on and off.

INT. UDINA’S OFFICE

TYPING. Ambassador Udina works on his computer. A few paintings of famous Earth leaders are on the wall.

INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Shepard and Joker continue to stare at the button.

SHEPARD
So, uh, why do you have that button anyway?

JOKER
Safety feature?

INT. UDINA’S OFFICE

DING. The office door opens and Anderson struts forward.

UDINA
Anderson?

Anderson keeps walking, says nothing.

UDINA (CONT’D)
What are you doing here?

Udina is confused. Anderson has reached his desk.

UDINA (CONT’D)
I, didn’t send for you-

Anderson punches Udina in the face. He’s knocked out. Anderson types away at his computer.

INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Joker is tapping his foot and clicking his pen.

JOKER
I see you chatting up the crew a lot. Especially-
SHEPARD
Especially who?

Shepard is not in the mood for small talk.

JOKER
Uh... nobody. No one.

They go back to staring at the button. BUZZ. The button turns green.

SHEPARD
Joker, get us out of here!

Joker slams the button. Shepard runs off.

EXT. CITADEL, HANGER

The cranes release the Normandy and it’s engines IGNITE.

EXT. CITADEL

A small fleet gathers. The Normandy leaves the Citadel.

EXT. SPACE

A Mass Relay stands alone in space. The Normandy arrives.

EXT. MASS RELAY

The Normandy flies the length of the relay. When the Normandy reaches the end it’s ZAPPED and disappears as it shoots forward.

EXT. MU MASS RELAY

The Normandy reappears. Ilos is in the distance, a rust colored planet. GETH WARSHIPS surround the planet.

INT. NORMANDY, COMMAND DECK

The Normandy crew are at their work stations. Shepard and his team gather in the command deck. Joker speaks from the intercom.

JOKER (O.S.)
Shepard, I spot a geth. Or thousand.
LIARA
Have their sensors picked us up??

JOKER (O.S.)
Stealth systems engaged. Unless we get close enough for a visual, they won’t have any idea we’re here.

GARRUS
Commander?

Garrus stands behind a work station.

SHEPARD
Garrus?

GARRUS
We’re getting strong readings coming from Ilos. One area in particular.

SHEPARD
Take us down, Joker. Garrus, send over the coordinates.

Garrus presses some buttons.

JOKER (O.S.)
Negative commander, no clear landing zone for miles.

ASHLEY
We’ll never make it in time on foot! Find us somewhere close!

GARRUS
There’s nowhere closer. This planet used to be a metropolis before it was destroyed. There’s not much room left for landing zones.

Shepard takes in the information

SHEPARD
Drop us in the mako.

ASHLEY
What!

TALI
You need at least 100 meters of open terrain to pull off a drop like that!
GARRUS
The most I can find near those readings... twenty.

ASHLEY
Twenty? Meters? No way we can make a drop in there!

LIARA
We have to try! Saren’s ahead enough as it is!

ASHLEY
Find another landing zone!

GARRUS
There are no others!

TALI
The descent angle’s too steep.

LIARA
But our only option!

ASHLEY
It’s not an option, it’s a suicide run! We can’t-

JOKER (O.S.)
I can do it.

SHEPARD
Joker?

JOKER (O.S.)
I can do it.

SHEPARD
Everyone gear up and head down to the mako. Joker, drop us right on top of the bastards if you need to.

EXT. ILOS - DAY

The Normandy enters Ilos’s upper atmosphere. The ground is covered by the crumbled remains of prothean civilization. Vines and weeds cover most of the remains.

EXT. ILOS, RUINED CITY

The Normandy flies above the ruined skyline. The twenty meter landing zone nears.
The mako is released out the back of the Normandy. It falls right into the target area, on top of a Geth battalion.

INT. MAKO

Garrus drives. Ashley mans the turret. Wrex fires the cannon.

EXT. ILOS, RUINED CITY

Turret FIRE and Cannon BURSTS. The geth are destroyed. The mako takes little damage.

INT. MAKO

Ashley lets go of the turret controls.

ASHLEY
Skipper, you did say to drop us on top of them!

SHEPARD
Yes I did! Let’s keep moving. Follow the readings.

EXT. ILOS, RUINED CITY

The mako drives on. The ruins are equal part marveling and sad. Large sections of the city are built into the surface of the planet. Buildings made of steel, and of stone. The longer they travel, the more it changes into all stone buildings.

INT. MAKO

The team look at the ruins.

WREX
It’s a ghost town.

EXT. ILOS, RUINED CITY

The ruined city turns into just ruins. Vague shapes remain, some look like temples and religious sites. Amidst the ruins stands a large intact bunker. It is covered in vines and surrounded by dying trees.
INT. MAKO

The team look at the bunker.

ASHLEY
It’s like they built a fortress in the middle of nowhere.

SHEPARD
Liara, what kind of prothean architecture is that?

LIARA
I’ve never seen anything like this in my research. Nothing even comes close.

SHEPARD
The Conduit has to be in there. Be on your toes, geth are perfect ambushers. They don’t breath, make noise, and are ever alert.

ASHLEY
Sir, they have flashlights for heads.

Shepard cracks a smile. The team lightly chuckles.

EXT. ILOŚ, RUINS

The mako rolls forward. A blue energy field turns on, blocking the entrance to the bunker. To the right of the entrance a hologram appears. It is mangled and impossible to tell the alien it was supposed to represent.

INT. MAKO

Shepard looks at the hologram, then to his team.

SHEPARD
Liara, Ashley, come with me.

GARRUS
Don’t worry, I’ll stay right here!

SHEPARD
Tali take over driving. Garrus, the turret.

GARRUS
Beats driving.
EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER

Shepard, Ashley, and Liara approach the hologram. It stands on a pedestal that says VIGIL. It speaks to the team.

VIGIL
You are not prothean. But you are not machine either. And, I do not sense the taint of indoctrination upon any of you, unlike the others that passed recently. Perhaps there is still hope.

ASHLEY
Looks like some kind of VI program. Pretty badly damaged.

VIGIL
I am an advanced non-organic analysis system with personality imprints from Kasad Ishon, Chief overseer of the Ilos research facility.

LIARA
This is incredible! An actual prothean VI! And I can understand it!

VIGIL
I have been monitoring all communication since the arrivals here. I have translated my output into a format you will comprehend. My name is Vigil. You are safe here, for the moment, but soon, nowhere will be safe.

SHEPARD
Vigil, we must stop Saren, the one who came before us. You need to let us through, now!

VIGIL
Dropping shield.

The energy shield drops. A compartment shoots out from Vigil’s pedestal. A slim disc is inside.

VIGIL (CONT’D)
You could have only found Ilos through our beacons, but you will still need my help if you wish to stop the Reapers.
Shepard looks at Liara and Ashley. They shrug.

ASHLEY
I don’t have a better idea.

Shepard picks up the disc. Vigil disappears from the pedestal and reappears as a smaller hologram that projects from the disc. The team walks toward the bunker entrance.

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER

The mako enters the bunker with Shepard, Liara and Ashley walking next to it. A main road cuts through the bunker. Many alleys and side streets veer away from the main road. The bunker shakes. The team continues forward at a brisk pace.

SHEPARD
Vigil, if we stop Saren, we stop the Reapers. Why do we need your help?

VIGIL
You must break a cycle that has continued for millions of years. But to stop it you must understand. Or, you will make the same mistakes we did.

The bunker shakes again and loud FOOTSTEPS echo throughout the bunker.

VIGIL (CONT’D)
The Citadel is the heart of your civilization, as it was with us, and every civilization before us. But the Citadel is a trap. The station is actually an enormous mass relay. One that links to dark space, the empty void beyond the galaxy’s horizon. When the Citadel relay is activated, the Reapers will pour through. And all you know will be destroyed.

FOOTSTEPS grow more frequent and louder.

SHEPARD
If Saren turns on the Citadel relay, the Reapers will wipe out the Council and Citadel fleet in one fell swoop!
VIGIL
That was our fate. Our leaders were
dead before we even realized we
were under attack. The Reapers
seized control of the Citadel and
through it, the mass relays.
Communication and transportation
across our empire was crippled.
Each star system was isolated, cut
off from the others. Easy prey for
the Reaper fleets. Over the next
decades, the Reapers systematically
obliterated our people. World by
World. System by System. They
methodically wiped us out.

LIARA
I feel sick.

The main road takes a dip and declines underground. The mako
leads forward.

INT. MAKO

The bunker shakes again. Rocks fall and CLUNK against the
mako. Garrus spots a GETH COLOSSUS. The Colossus has the head
of a geth, but stands on four legs with a long neck. It is
three stories high. Tali picks up her radio.

TALI
Shepard! Colossus!

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER

Shepard spots the Colossus. A dozen geth soldiers travel with
it.

SHEPARD
(rhetorically, to team)
Any bright ideas?

VIGIL
Aim for the head?

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The team reach the bottom of the decline. The bunker’s
basement walls are seven stories high, tiled with 4x4 square-
foot doors. Some of the doors are open. Pods, partially and
fully, stick out. They are too high to see what is inside.
The main road is littered with fallen rock, debris, statues, and deteriorating plant life. Shepard turns to the team.

SHEPARD
We deal with the Colossus, and race ahead as fast as we can to Saren. He can’t be too much farther.

Liara summons an energy ball. Ashley checks her weapon.

INT. MAKO
Tali makes adjustments at the mako’s main console. Wrex and Garrus aim the turret and cannon.

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT
Shepard motions for Tali to keep the mako where it is. From cover to cover, Shepard’s team make their way forward. Shepard’s team stops, halfway between the mako and the Colossus. Shepard signals back to Tali.

INT. MAKO
Tali nods to Wrex.

TALI
Make it count, Wrex.

WREX
Always do.

Wrex fires.

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT
The mako’s cannon fires. BOOM. The Colossus is hit. It is unaffected by the blast. The Colossus and geth battalion turn around and open fire.

SHEPARD
(into radio)
Shields! You’re going to have to pound it until they fall. We can’t get any closer. We’ll distract it as long as we can!

Shepard and Ashley open fire. One geth falls.
Liara shoots an energy ball at the Colossus. It turns toward Liara. Each step causes the ground to shake and RUMBLE.

INT. MAKO

Wrex and Garrus open fire on the Colossus.

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The Colossus shoots a plasma beam at Liara. It destroys the ruins she was using for cover. Liara is blown back, into the open.

The mako fire hits the Colossus. It is constant. The Colossus is pushed back. It turns back to the mako and fires.

INT. MAKO

Tali shifts the mako into reverse.

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The mako reverses behind some ruins. The Colossus beam just misses the mako.

Geth troops aim at Liara. Shepard and Ashley pick them off.

Liara retreats behind a prothean statue.

The Colossus BLASTS the ruins the mako was hiding behind. Another Colossus BLAST. The mako is hit blind-sided.

INT. MAKO

The mako rocks. ALARMS sound and sparks fly. Wrex and Garrus are knocked away from their controls.

INT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

Liara is pinned down behind the statue.

Ashley and Shepard fire at the geth soldiers, drawing fire away.

Liara summons the largest energy ball we’ve seen and shoots at the Colossus. Liara is shot by a geth.

BANG! The Colossus is hit. Sparks fly. Smoke rises from it.
SHEPARD
(into radio)
Shields are down! Hit it!

INT. MAKO
Garrus and Wrex crawl to their seats. They try to aim.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT
The mako’s turret barely moves. It’s jammed.

INT. MAKO
Tali looks on impatiently. Garrus tries again.

GARRUS
It won’t budge!

Tali looks to Wrex. He shakes his head.

TALI
It must have knocked out the targeting system.

GARRUS
We’re sitting ducks.

WREX
Not if I can help it.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT
Geth concentrate fire on Shepard and Ashley. The ruins they hide behind are falling apart. Liara is too hurt to help. Shepard notices the RUMBLE of the mako’s engine.

The mako drives straight at the Colossus. Wrex is on top of the mako. Using brute strength, Wrex manually adjusts the cannon trajectory. Wrex BANGS the mako to signal he’s ready.

INT. MAKO
Tali pushes the mako’s pedal to the floor while dodging ruin and debris.

GARRUS
We need to be closer!
We’re out of time!

The mako hits a rock and bounces. Garrus fires the cannon.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The cannon blast hits the wall behind the Colossus. Miss.

Wrex watches in horror as the Colossus returns fire. It’s plasma beam shoots straight at them.

INT. MAKO

Tali looks at the oncoming plasma beam.

TALI

Hold on!

Tali activates the mako thrusters.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The mako, still speeding forward, ignites the THRUSTERS. The mako lifts into the air.

Shepard watches the mako travel over his head.

The Colossus plasma beam shoots under the mako.

The mako lands hard onto the ground. Wrex falls off the side, holding onto the mako cannon with one hand.

The Colossus targets the mako.

INT. MAKO

Tali speeds forward and runs over some geth. The mako bounces.

TALI

One more shot! Wrex!

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

Wrex pulls himself back up.
INT. MAKO

Tali steers with one hand, and gets ready to hit the thrusters with the other.

    TALI
    Hold on!

Tali hits the thrusters.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The thrusters raise the mako up.

Wrex readjusts his shot.

INT. MAKO

Garrus fires the cannon.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT

The mako’s cannon BLASTS the Colossus in the head. The head EXPLODES and the Colossus crumbles to the ground.

The mako lands. Garrus and Tali jump out of the mako and join Wrex. They destroy the remaining Geth.

Ashley and Shepard run over to Liara.

    SHEPARD
    Liara!

    LIARA
    I’m fine Shepard, don’t worry about me.

Liara’s shoulder is bleeding. Shepard whistles at the mako.

    SHEPARD
    Garrus, we need a medkit!

Shepard helps Liara up. He sits her on some debris.

Garrus arrives with a medkit.

    GARRUS
    Mako’s busted. Tali and Wrex are on it. We’ll be up and running in five.
VIGIL
We must keep moving. We cannot let
the Reapers reach the Citadel once
more.

Garrus and Tali tend to Liara’s wound.

Shepard speaks with Vigil.

VIGIL (CONT’D)
Through the Citadel, the Reapers
had access to all our records,
maps, census data. Information is
power, and they knew everything
about us. Their fleets advanced
across every region in the galaxy.
Some worlds were utterly destroyed,
others were conquered, their
populations enslaved. These
indoctrinated servants became
sleeper agents under Reaper
control, taken in as refugees by
other protheans. They betrayed them
to the machines. Within a few
centuries the Reapers had killed or
enslaved every prothean in the
galaxy. They were relentless,
brutal, and absolutely thorough.

SHEPARD
We will stop them. How deadly is
the Conduit?

LIARA
And what happens if Saren finds it
before us? Ouch!

Garrus presses down on Liara’s wound.

VIGIL
The Conduit is the key. Before the
Reapers attacked, we protheans were
on the cusp of unlocking the
mysteries behind mass relay
technology. Ilos was a top secret
facility. Here, researchers worked
to create a small scale version of
a mass relay. One that linked
directly to the Citadel, the hub of
the relay network.

SHEPARD
The Conduit isn’t a weapon! It’s a
back-door onto the Citadel!
Garrus and Ashley help Liara up.

The team walk her back to the mako.

LIARA
What happened to your research facility?

VIGIL
We lost all communication with the outside and our facility went dark. Personnel retreated underground, into these archives. To conserve resources, everyone was put into cryogenic stasis. I was programmed to monitor the facility and wake the staff when the danger had passed. But the genocide of an entire species is a long, slow process. Years passed. Decades. Centuries. The Reapers persisted. And my energy reserves were dwindling.

SHEPARD
And yet you still have power.

VIGIL
I began to disable the life support of non-essential personal. First support staff. Then security. One by one their pods were shut down to conserve energy. Eventually only the stasis pods of the top scientists remained active. Even these were in danger of failing when the Reapers finally retreated back through the Citadel relay.

The team walk by a stasis pod opened from the fighting. The pod holds only dusty remains.

LIARA
There are hundreds of stasis pods in here! Thousands!

VIGIL
My actions were the result of contingency programming entered upon my creation. I saved key personal.
ASHLEY
I bet they didn’t tell the non-essential staff about this contingency!

The team arrives back at the mako.

Wrex is hitting the turret with some tools.

Tali slides out from under the mako.

TALI
She’ll hold together, for a little while longer.

INT. MAKO
The entire team sits in the mako.

With a RUMBLE, Tali turns on the mako.

SHEPARD
Full speed ahead.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT
The mako drives forward.

INT. MAKO
Vigil is the only light inside the mako.

LIARA
So, what happened?

VIGIL
When the Reapers retreated and the top researchers woke, they realized the prothean species was doomed. Only dozens remained.

LIARA
That’s horrible!

VIGIL
Yet, they vowed to find some way to stop the Reapers from returning. A way to break the cycle forever. And they knew the keepers were the key.
WREX
Keepers? Those useless Citadel creatures?

VIGIL
The keepers are controlled by the Citadel. Before each invasion a signal is sent through the station compelling the keepers to activate the Citadel relay and let the Reapers through. After decades of feverish study the scientists discovered a way to alter this signal. Using the Conduit, the researchers gained access to the Citadel and made the necessary modifications. This time, when Sovereign sent the signal to the Citadel, the Keepers ignored it. The Reapers are trapped in dark space.

SHEPARD
Saren’s using the Conduit to reach the Citadel and manually give control of the station back to Sovereign! Sovereign will then allow the Reapers back through!

VIGIL
Correct. And the cycle of extinction will begin again.

A low RUMBLE shakes the mako.

It’s grows louder and more violent.

A flash of blue light blinds everything.

EXT. PROTHEAN BUNKER, BASEMENT
The light fades away. The RUMBLE quiets to a standstill.

Ahead of the mako is the bunker’s basement exit.

Through it, a half-mile away, is a miniature mass relay, the Conduit.

EXT. THE CONDUIT EXPRESSWAY
The Conduit is brought to life. It works.
The half mile expressway between the mako and Conduit has four geth battalions and three geth colossus.

The mako stops.

INT. MAKO

The team stare at the geth. Ashley breaks the silence.

ASHLEY
For Kaidan.

WREX
Glory!

TALI
Peace.

GARRUS
Vengeance.

LIARA
My mother.

SHEPARD
For everyone. For all those that don’t know what’s at stake.

There is a moment of silence.

SHEPARD (CONT’D)
Hit it!

EXT. THE CONDUIT EXPRESSWAY

The mako speeds down the Conduit expressway.

It passes the first Geth battalion and keeps going.

They pass the first Colossus. It fires. Miss.

The mako swerves back and forth, dodging fire.

They are a quarter mile from the Conduit. It looms large in front of them.

EXT. CITADEL

A Geth warship appears from space. Another. And another.
Sovereign arrives, ten times bigger than any other ship. Geth warships continue to arrive around it.

They speed toward the Citadel and open fire.

The Citadel fleet and Citadel itself are hit with heavy fire. Explosions rock the Citadel.

Citadel ships are outnumbered ten to one. Some ships are obliterated from the massive amounts of firepower.

One Citadel fleet ship is larger than the rest, the DESTINY ASCENSION. It is hit with a massive blast.

INT. DESTINY ASCENSION, COMMAND DECK

The ship RUMBLES from a hit. An ASARI CAPTAIN loses her balance. An ASARI PILOT hangs on to the steering controls.

ASARI CAPTAIN
Activate the defences! Seal the Citadel!

ASARI PILOT
The arms aren’t moving! Citadel Systems aren’t responding!

Another explosion causes TREMORS throughout the ship.

The Asari Captain pauses for a moment in thought.

ASARI CAPTAIN
(with regret)
Abandon the Citadel! Evacuate the Council! Prep for their transfer!

Asari Pilot holds down a button.

ASARI PILOT
Citadel Control!
(beat)
Citadel Control, do you copy?

INT. CITADEL, CONTROL

Asari and Turian bodies lay face down on computer consoles. Over the radio Asari Pilot pleads for help.

Saren and three geth bodyguards leave the room.
EXT. THE CONDUIT EXPRESSWAY

The mako dodges another Colossus blast two hundred meters to the Conduit.

INT. MAKO

Tali swerves back and forth.

Shepard looks ahead, but shouts so everyone can hear.

SHEPARD
Saren’s already through. We’ll need to move fast and efficiently if we’re going to catch him.

VIGIL
Saren will be heading to the Citadel’s master control unit. Upload me to into it. I’m able to corrupt the Citadel’s security protocols and give you temporary control of the station. I will be destroyed in the process, but give you a chance against Sovereign.

SHEPARD
Vigil. It’s been an honor.

VIGIL
Good luck. Your fight has just begun.

Shepard turns off Vigil and pockets the disc.

SHEPARD
Everyone hold on!

EXT. THE CONDUIT

The mako is smoking and about to fall apart.

A Colossus BLAST behind the mako propels it forward, into the Conduit.

The Conduit shoots the mako into the sky. BANG! It disappears.

INT. CITADEL PRESIDIUM

The Citadel Presidium is destroyed, fire everywhere.
Two Geth soldiers stand in front the mass relay monument. The RUMBLE of the mako’s engine grows. The two geth look curiously at the monument.

BANG! The mako shoots through the mass relay monument, crushing the geth soldiers. The mako flips on its side and rolls to a stop.

The team crawls out from under the mako.

Shepard looks up at the Citadel tower.

SHEPARD
Citadel master control will be in the council chambers.

Shepard heads toward the tower elevator.

INT. CITADEL TOWER
Saren walks up the stairs to the Council chambers.
He passes by a keeper and shoots it. And another.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL
Saren stands at the master controls in the council chamber. He brings up a large holographic screen and makes a few adjustments.

EXT. CITADEL
The Destiny Ascension fires on enemy ships.

INT. DESTINY ASCENSION COMMAND DECK
The Asari Captain looks over damage reports.
The Asari pilot frantically tries to answer distress calls.

WORRIED TURIAN
(over radio)
Did the Council make it?

ASARI PILOT
Yes, the Council is safe and aboard.
CRYING ASARI
(over radio)
My family all lived on the Citadel! Everyone!

ASARI PILOT
We’re doing everything we can, mam.

DISTRESSED MAN
(over radio)
The Citadel’s closing! They’re sealing the station!

The Asari Captain is caught off guard.

ASARI CAPTAIN
What?

DISTRESSED MAN
(over radio)
The station! The wards are closing!

ASARI CAPTAIN
By the goddess...

The Asari Captain looks out the window. The Citadel wards are closing.

EXT. CITADEL

Sovereign heads straight toward the closing station.

INT. DESTINY ASCENSION COMMAND DECK

Asari Captain sees the enemy ships approaching the Citadel.

ASARI CAPTAIN
Focus on stopping all enemy ships from getting inside the Citadel!

EXT. CITADEL

Ships fire on Sovereign, but it does not slow down.

Sovereign SMASHES right through a Citadel ship in its path.

The wards SHUDDER closed just as Sovereign passes through.
INT. CLOSED CITADEL

Sovereign travels the length of the closed Citadel. The Citadel is massive, even compared with Sovereign’s size.

Sovereign leeches onto the top of Citadel Tower.

INT. CITADEL TOWER, ELEVATOR

Shepard and team head up a citadel tower elevator. It’s a glass exterior elevator that enables the team to survey the destruction on the way up.

With a SCREECH the elevator stops.

Shepard aims his gun at the elevator window.

SHEPARD
No stopping! We’re going outside!

The team flip switches on their suits.

EXT. CITADEL TOWER

Shepard turns a dial on his boots. His boots HUM.

Shepard shoots the elevator.

With THUMP he takes a step outside. Another footstep, another THUMP. The boots keep Shepard attached to the tower.

Shepard starts running, at a ninety-degree angle to the ground, up the outside of the tower. The team follows.

A half-mile up Sovereign is imposingly attached to the tower top.

The team runs forward.

Ahead of the team glass shatters from the tower side. Geth soldiers come out. Shepard’s team takes cover.

The Geth soldiers also take cover.

TALI
They’re camping out!

Ashley shoots at the geth in vain. They fire back.

ASHLEY
They’re just trying to delay us!
LIARA
We don’t have much time!

SHEPARD
We’re out of time! Ashley! Liara!
With me! Wrex, Garrus, Tali,
provide cover fire!

The Shepard’s team runs across the Citadel tower side.
The rest of the team fire at the geth.

Shepard’s team rounds the tower’s side. More geth.

ASHLEY
We have to go back!

SHEPARD
No, it’s what they want us to do.

LIARA
It’s the only option!

SHEPARD
There’s one other.

INT. CITADEL TOWER
Shepard’s team crash through side windows and onto the floor.
The team looks up at the stairs leading to the council chamber.
Dragon’s teeth have been placed all around the tower.
SCREAMS as husks appear and run at the team.
The team run up the stairs. Husks attack from all sides.

EXT. CITADEL
The Citadel fleet is now grossly outnumbered by Geth ships.

INT. DESTINY ASCENSION COMMAND DECK
The Asari Pilot takes her hands off the controls. Her body slumps. The room is silent.

ASARI CAPTAIN
Soldier, man the controls!
ASARI PILOT
Captain, with all due respect, it’s over.

ASARI CAPTAIN
Not until I say it is!

ASARI PILOT
The enemy has control of the station. They’ve shut down the mass relay’s! The rest of the Citadel fleet can’t even get through! We’re helpless and stranded!

Through the window another Citadel ship is destroyed by Geth warships.

ASARI CAPTAIN
Give up, and the enemy wins. Fight, and we might lose anyway. But at least we take a few of them out with us. Now, take those controls!

ASARI PILOT
Yes, sir!

The Asari Pilot grabs the controls with renewed intensity.

INT. CITADEL TOWER
Shepard’s team continues running up the stairs.

One husk grab’s Liara’s wound. She screams. Ashley blasts the husks off her.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL
The team reach the top of the stairs. Behind them lay the bodies of dozens of husks. Ahead of them, up a last steep staircase, are the Citadel master controls.

Saren continues to manipulate the master controls. FOOTSTEPS approach. Saren turns around. He whips a grenade at the team.

Shepard, Ashley, and Liara take cover at the base of the stairs. The grenade EXPLODES.

SAREN
I was afraid you wouldn’t make it in time, Shepard.

Saren speaks confidently and in the open.
Shepard yells back from cover.

SHEPARD
In time?

SAREN
I think we both expected it would end like this. You’re very persistent. Like myself. Only you’ve lost.
(beat)
You know that, don’t you?

SHEPARD
It’s not over!

SAREN
Oh, but it is. In a few minutes Sovereign will have control of all the Citadel systems. The citadel relay will open. The Reapers will return.

SHEPARD
I’ve still got a few tricks up my sleeve!

SAREN
You survived on Virmire, but I’ve changed since then. Improved. Sovereign has upgraded me.

Saren’s eyes glow blue.

SHEPARD
You let Sovereign implant you? Are you insane?

SAREN
I suppose I should thank you. After Virmire I couldn’t stop thinking about what you said. About Sovereign manipulating me. About indoctrination. The doubts began to eat away at me. Sovereign sensed my hesitation. I was implanted... to strengthen my resolve! Now my doubts are gone. I believe in Sovereign completely! I understand that the Reapers need organics. Join us, and Sovereign will find a place for you, too.
SHEPARD
Sovereign’s just controlling you through your implants! Don’t you see that?

SAREN
The relationship is symbiotic. Organic and machine. Intertwined. A union of flesh and steel. The strengths of both, the weaknesses of neither. I am a vision of future! The evolution of all organic life! This is our destiny. Join Sovereign and experience a true rebirth.

SHEPARD
Sovereign has not won yet. I can stop it from taking control of the station! Step aside, and the invasion will never happen.

SAREN
We can’t stop it! Not forever! You saw the visions. You saw what happened to the protheans! The Reapers are too powerful.

SHEPARD
Some part of you must still realize this is wrong! You can fight this!

SAREN
No. There’s not. Maybe...

Saren tenses up. He GROANS and struggles to control himself.

SAREN (CONT’D)
Maybe you’re right...

Saren continues his internal struggle.

SAREN (CONT’D)
Maybe there is still a chance for... for...

Saren collapses onto the ground.

SAREN (CONT’D)
The implants! Sovereign’s too strong! I’m sorry, it is too late for me.
Shepard steps out from cover. He stands in the open and challenges Saren.

**SHEPARD**
It’s not over yet! You can still redeem yourself!

Saren holds onto a guardrail to keep himself upright. He is still struggling to speak freely. Saren grabs his hand gun.

**SAREN**
Goodbye, Shepard.

Saren puts the gun to his head.

**SAREN (CONT’D)**
Thank you.

Shepard watches in horror as a GUNSHOT goes off.

Saren slumps to the floor. His body is finally at peace.

**ASHLEY**
Don’t just stand there! You’ve got a galaxy to save!

**SHEPARD**
Rest in peace, spectre.

Shepard runs up the stairs. Ashley and Liara follow.

Shepard takes out the Vigil-disc and puts it into the master control.

The master control screens flash red. Then go black.

**ASHLEY**
Ok, so, maybe that wasn’t a good idea...

**LIARA**
The protheans worked too hard for this. I trust in Vigil.

Sparks fly. The Vigil-disc shoots back out of the Master control. It’s burnt to a crisp.

The master control systems boots up again. It’s back online.

Ashley gives Liara a love-punch in the shoulder.

**ASHLEY**
I knew it’d work!
Shepard immediately goes to work at the console.

SHEPARD
Vigil has given us back control of all systems!

ASHLEY
Quick! Open the station’s arms! It won’t be long before Sovereign regains control of the Citadel!

LIARA
See if you can open a comm channel.

Shepard types at the master controls.

SHEPARD
Comm channel open. Distress call sent. Now we just have to wait for-

ASARI CAPTAIN
(over radio)
Destiny Ascension. Main drives offline. Kinetic barriers down forty percent. We’re not going to make it. The Council is on board. I repeat, Council is on board.

A GROAN echoes through the tower.

SHEPARD
Destiny, please hold.

TURIAN CAPTAIN
(over radio)
Second fleet here. If the relay’s were up, we could be at the Citadel in an hour. What’s going on?

SHEPARD
Second fleet, relay’s will be open soon, we need you at the Citadel ASAP!

JOKER
(over radio)
Normandy reporting. We lost our Commander to some wild goose chase. Any idea where he is?

Shepard and team smiles.

SHEPARD
Nice to hear you too.
JOKER
(over radio)
Got that distress call. I’m sitting in the Endurous Sector with the entire Arcturus fleet. We can save the Council, just unlock the relays and here comes the cavalry!

ASHLEY
You can’t sacrifice human lives to save the council! Save them to concentrate on the Reaper about to take back control of the citadel! What did the council ever do for us?

LIARA
This is bigger than us. Sovereign is a threat to every organic species in the galaxy.

ASHLEY
Exactly! And we can’t throw away reinforcements trying to save the council! Hold back. Don’t come through the relay until the wards are open so we can concentrate on Sovereign.

JOKER
(over radio)
What’s the order, commander?

Shepard thinks it over. He works the master controls.

SHEPARD
Opening the relay’s now. We need to save the Council.

ASHLEY
I hope you know what you’re doing commander.

SHEPARD
It’s not only about accomplishing the mission, but the choices you made along the way.

Shepard continues working the controls.

EXT. CITADEL

The Citadel’s wards begin to open, slowly.
Very few Citadel fleet ships remain. Geth warships populate the area.

The Normandy arrives. Dozens of Alliance ships appear behind it.

Geth warships immediately respond to the new threat.

INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Joker dodges geth missiles and fire.

JOKER
You can’t do better than that?

EXT. CITADEL

The Normandy flies toward the Destiny Ascension while firing on nearby Geth ships.

INT. DESTINY ASCENSION COMMAND DECK

The Asari Pilot works the Destiny’s controls furiously. She pauses.

ASARI PILOT
Captain, I’m picking up... Reenforcements?

The Captain looks out the cockpit window.

ASARI CAPTAIN
The Alliance! Thank the Goddess! Hang in there!

EXT. CITADEL

More Alliance ships surround the Destiny Ascension.

Geth ships concentrate fire on the protecting ships. Many are destroyed, but the protection holds.

INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Joker stares intensely into the battle. The Destiny is well protected by Alliance ships now.

JOKER
Destiny, you are all clear.
INT. CITADEL COUNCIL

Shepard coordinates the attack from the master controls.

SHEPARD
Council secure. All teams concentrate fire on Sovereign.

EXT. CITADEL

The Citadel wards begin to open.

One by one, Alliance ships enter. They take passes flying by Sovereign, taking easy shots at the sitting station.

INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Joker prepares to make a run at Sovereign.

JOKER
Don’t worry commander, this Reaper will be back on the scrap heap in no-

(pause)
What the...

EXT. CITADEL

Something moves on Sovereign. A cannon. It fires.

A continuous red beam, a wider than some of the ships, shoots out from Sovereign.

Any ship it touches is soon blown to pieces.

Sovereign lifts off the Citadel tower. It shoots more freely at the Alliance ships.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL

Shepard watches monitors of the battle.

ASARI CAPTAIN
(over radio)
Sovereign is too strong! We have to pull back!

SHEPARD
Negative! Take that Reaper down. No matter the cost!
EXT. CITADEL

Sovereign fires on more ships that are instantly destroyed. One ship loses control and heads toward Sovereign.

INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Joker watches the falling ship fall toward Sovereign.

EXT. CITADEL

Sovereign aims at falling destroyed ship.

INT. DESTROYED SHIP COCKPIT

Destroyed Ships’s Pilot pulls up on his controls. He steadies the angle of descent and heads toward Sovereign’s plasma cannon. Sovereign's plasma cannon opens wide. Inside, the plasma beam gears up to fire.

EXT. CITADEL

The destroyed ships crashes directly into the beam cannon. An explosion ROCKS Sovereign. More Alliance ships fire on Sovereign. They are finally having an impact.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL

Shepard stays busy at the master controls.

SHEPARD
Keep firing! Hit it with everything we have!

EXT. CITADEL

The most firepower we’ve seen is directed at Sovereign. The Normandy flies right at it.
INT. NORMANDY COCKPIT

Joker pushes the Normandy to full throttle.

    JOKER
    Guard my flank! Normandy going in!

EXT. CITADEL

The Normandy flies right up to Sovereign. It shoot a large missile and pulls away at the last moment.

The missile hits Sovereign right in the front.

An explosion bursts out Sovereign's back.

Sovereign begins to fall. It explodes from the inside.

Sovereign breaks into pieces with a loud MOAN that is half mechanic and half organic. Parts of Sovereign fly in all directions.

A piece of Sovereign’s debris heads toward the Citadel tower.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL

Shepard notices the debris heading right toward the Council chambers.

    SHEPARD
    Run!

Shepard’s team runs from master control area.

EXT. CITADEL

Sovereign’s debris SMASHES into the tower. Debris and smoke burst out from the impact zone.

    FADE OUT.

INT. CITADEL COUNCIL

Darkness. Alarms sound.

Through the darkness comes thick smoke.

The smoke clears showing the destroyed interior of the council chambers.
Nothing moves except for the fires.

Then, the sound of FOOTSTEPS.

Wrex, Tali, and Garrus, run into the Council chambers. With flashlights they search the area. Garrus spots Liara sprawled on the floor.

    GARRUS
    Over there! Liara!

Tali runs over to Liara’s aid.

Wrex spots Ashley collapsed against a wall behind Garrus.

    WREX
    Garrus! Behind you!

Garrus turns and runs over to Ashley.

    GARRUS
    It’s over. You’re safe now.
    (beat)
    Where’s Shepard?

Ashley looks toward the huge piece of Sovereign debris.

Garrus shakes his head.

    GARRUS (CONT’D)
    No.

Garrus helps Ashley up. They join Tali, Wrex, and Liara.

The slowly walk toward the debris. No sign of Shepard.

Movement. From behind the debris. Something moves.

Shepard appears from around the debris. He walks toward the team with a slight limp in his left leg.

The team smiles to each other as they circle up. They give each other hugs, slap each other on the back, and start telling their war stories to each other.

EXT. CITADEL

The Normandy flies by the Citadel tower.

INT. NORMANDY, CONFERENCE ROOM

The Council stands waiting.
Shepard, Anderson, and Udina enter. The door shuts behind them.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Ambassador. Captain. Commander Shepard.

They nod in acknowledgment.

ASARI COUNCILOR (CONT’D)
We have gathered here to recognize the enormous contributions of the alliance forces in the war against Sovereign and the Geth.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
Many humans lost their lives in the battle to save the Citadel. Brave and courageous soldiers who willingly gave their lives, so that we, the Council, might live.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
There is no greater sacrifice, and we share your grief over the tragic loss of so many noble men and women.

ASARI COUNCILOR
The Council also owes you a great personal debt, Commander. One we can never repay. You saved not just our lives, but the lives of trillions from Sovereign and the Reapers.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
Your heroic and selfless actions serve as a symbol of everything humanity and the Alliance stand for.

TURIAN COUNCILOR
And though we cannot bring back those valiant soldiers, who gave their lives to save ours, we can honor their memories through our actions.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Humanity has shown it is ready to stand as a defender and protector of the galaxy.

(MORE)
You have proved you are worthy to join our ranks and sit beside us on the Citadel council.

Udina steps forward.

UDINA
Councilors, on behalf of humanity and the Alliance, we thank you for this prestigious honor, and humbly accept.

SALARIAN COUNCILOR
We will need a list of potential candidates to fill humanity’s seat on the council.

ASARI COUNCILOR
Given all that’s happened, Shepard, any recommendation of yours will carry a great deal of weight.

Shepard steps forward.

ANDERSON
We need someone with the courage to stand up for what he believes in. Someone like Captain Anderson.

UDINA
Him? You must be joking! Anderson prefers to let his fists do the talking!

Anderson smiles.

ANDERSON
Only with you, ambassador. Only with you.

UDINA
Are you sure about this, Shepard? The Captain’s a soldier, not a politician.

SHEPARD
We’ve already got too many politicians on the citadel. Anderson would be perfect for this job.

ASARI COUNCILOR
An inspired choice.
The Council would welcome you with open arms.

Should you accept.

I’m honored. As humanity’s representative I’ll do everything in my power to help the council rebuild.

Sovereign’s defeat marks the beginning of a new area. For humanity, and the Council. The galaxy is at peace once more.

The Councilors shake hands with Anderson.

There is no peace, not yet. Sovereign was just the messenger. The rest of the Reaper fleet is coming. Hundreds. Maybe thousands. They’ll use other methods. And I’m going to find a way to stop them.

Shepard leaves the room.

Shepard’s right. Humanity is ready to do its part. United with the rest of the Council, we have the strength to overcome any challenge. When the Reapers come, we must stand side by side! Fight against them as one. And together, we will drive them back into dark space!

Shepard’s team is waiting for him.

So, what happens to the team that just pulled off the impossible?

How about an encore?
GARRUS
I think you’re developing a taste for Reapers.

ASHLEY
Better than the crap they serve at C-Sec.

GARRUS
True. But far more dangerous.

JOKER
Commander, we’re getting reports of an odd signature near the Freedom’s Progress colony in the Terminus Systems.

The team sighs.

LIARA
I guess I’ll be cancelling my shore leave request.

SHEPARD
We’ll live to rest another day. Joker, drop off the Council. There’s a galaxy out there that needs saving.

EXT. CITADEL

The Normandy leaves the Citadel.

It flies into the distance and turns into just another star in the sky.