

THE SAVACE
"First Encounter"

Written by

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EXT.WILDERNESS-DAY

The Varan military unit is scattered throughout an uninhabited part of the wilderness with the soldiers all searching in different directions.

Lane, Nara, and Aron look at some footprints.

LANE

Well, we've been out here all morning and so far all we've found are some footprints, but those could have just been local hunters.

NARA

I told you, there is no evidence of the Tharans making advances in the region.

LANE

For all our sakes I hope you're right, but we still need to survey the other half of the wilderness.

JAEL (O.S.)

Captain, over here. You're gonna want to see this.

Lane, Nara, and Aron head over to Jael's location. Jael is crouched over and analyzing the dead body of the Galban Rebel from the first scene.

NARA

No.

Nara puts her hand over her mouth. Lane runs up to Jael and the dead body.

LANE

The symbols on his uniform match that of the same militia we lost contact with.

JAEL

And the wounds are fresh. He couldn't have been here for more than a day and a half.

LANE

So that puts the time of death around the same time of the sightings by the villagers.

Aron and Nara watch from a distance, Nara still in shock.

ARON

Look, I'm sorry about all of this,
I know how much you didn't want
this to be true.

NARA

This was supposed to be a safe
place.

ARON

I'm sorry, but you know what this
means.

NARA

He was supposed to be safe here.

Lane stands up.

LANE

Everyone, circle around me.

The Varan soldiers all run up and circle around Lane.

LANE (CONT'D)

Finding this body proves the one
thing we were all afraid of. But
now that we've found a lead, we
should hopefully be able to find
where the Tharans are currently
stationed.

EDAN

Where do we go from here?

LANE

We should see where he was running
away from.

Jael analyzes the rebel's footprints while playing with his
knife.

JAEEL

His footprints aren't too deep but
they appear to come from that
direction.

Jael points to a direction south of their current location.

XAN

Wouldn't be shocked if we find some
more evidence over there.

LANE

Alright, we'll search over in that direction.

TRIL

Captain, wait, I think one of us should stay back and watch the body in case any Tharans come back to destroy the evidence.

LANE

Alright, Tril, you will stay behind with the body and the rest of us will head off to look for more evidence. Nara, you should stay behind too.

NARA

Sorry Coxwell, but I'm not going to let you start another war here.

LANE

Nara, I understand your concern but it's too late, the war has already started. Now I'm ordering you to stay here, we can't have any civilian casualties on our hands. Come on soldiers, let's go.

Lane, Aron, Jael, Edan, and Xan all head out in the direction of the rebel's footsteps, blaster rifles drawn. Tril stays behind with Nara.

Tril walks towards Nara.

TRIL

I'm really sorry about all of this.

Nara just frowns at him.

Tril walks away from Nara and talks into his communication device.

TRIL (CONT'D)

The Varans took the bait and are heading towards ground zero. Make sure everything is in position.

EXT. WILDERNESS CLEARING-DAY

Lane and the Varan soldiers approach the clearing from the first scene.

The now decapitated head of the rebel commander lies in the center of the clearing with the bodies of other various REBEL SOLDIERS scattered around.

Hiding behind a big tree, three THARAN SOLDIERS load their blaster rifles.

Lane and Aron approach the body in the center and the other Varan soldiers check out the bodies of the rebel soldiers.

LANE

Well this is the rebel we lost contact with.

ARON

Or was. What happened to his head?

LANE

I don't know, and I'm not sure I want to know.

Hiding behind trees, two more THARAN SOLDIERS cock their rifles.

XAN (O.S.)

Captain, get over here, this one's got a pulse.

Lane and Aron turn their heads towards Xan's direction.

LANE

Impossible.

Lane runs up to Xan and the body of the surviving rebel.

The rebel is face down and unlike the others, she doesn't appear to have any injuries from blaster fire. The only injuries that she appears to have are some bruises and cuts.

Directly above Lane, Xan, and the rebel, A THARAN SOLDIER with a sniper rifle takes aim.

Lane and Xan turn her body over. The surviving rebel is Reth, who appears to be in a trance of some sort.

LANE (CONT'D)

What did they do to you?

Lane and Xan shake her body and she wakes up in shock.

LANE (CONT'D)

Soldier, what happened here?

Reth pause for a moment.

RETH

Run.

LANE

What?

RETH

You need to run, it's a trap.

BOOM! Explosions simultaneously go off around the battle site. A dozen Tharan soldiers come out of hiding and open fire on the Varans.

The Tharan sniper shoots at Reth, Lane, and Xan. Reth and Lane dodge the blaster fire but Xan is shot in the shoulder.

Lane is able to locate the sniper in the trees and shoots at him with his rifle. Lane hits him in the chest and the sniper falls out the tree and onto the ground, dead on impact.

Reth, Lane, and Xan take cover behind the tree. Xan uses his hand to put pressure on his wound from the blaster fire but quickly removes his hand from the wound due to the heat. He grabs a piece of cloth from his bag, wraps his hand in it and reapplies pressure.

LANE

Shit.

Aron ducks for cover behind a rock in the clearing and removes his backpack. Jael and Edan take cover behind trees and rocks and remove their backpacks as well. Jael even uses the dead body of a rebel soldier as a human shield.

Blaster fire completely surrounds them. The four of them fire back and Aron is able to take out one of the Tharan soldiers.

ARON

Captain, we're surrounded.

LANE

Really, I couldn't tell.

ARON

What are your orders?

Lane grabs the sniper rifle from the dead Tharan soldier.

LANE

A sniper hidden in the trees tried to take out me and Xan, check to see if there are any more hiding up there.

Lane slides Aron the sniper rifle.

ARON

Yes sir.

Aron grabs the rifle and reloads it. He looks through the scope and takes aim towards the tops of the trees.

EXT. WILDERNESS-DAY

Tril stands guard of the rebel's body. Nara stands not too far away. Blaster fire can be heard in the distance.

NARA

Do you hear that?

TRIL

Blaster fire. Sounds like Lane may have run into some trouble.

NARA

We have to help them.

Nara clenches her fists and walks towards the blaster fire. With her back facing Tril, Nara's amulet and her eyes glow.

TRIL

What do you think you're doing?

Nara's amulet and eyes stops glowing.

TRIL (CONT'D)

Our orders are to stay behind and guard the body. Lane's a good captain and he knows what he's doing. He'll be fine.

Nara turns around and walks towards Tril.

NARA

Alright, I'll stay.

TRIL

You're an unarmed civilian with no military training. How did you think you were going to help them anyway?

NARA

Right, I'm just a civilian.

EXT. WILDERNESS CLEARING-DAY

The Varans are surrounded by an army of twelve Tharans.

Lane is taking cover behind a tree alongside an injured Reth and an injured Xan. Aron is armed with a sniper rifle and taking cover behind a rock. Edan hides behind their own trees while Jael fires back at the Tharans with dual wielding pistols.

Edan looks toward Lane.

EDAN

Captain, we're dead men walking.

Lane fires back at the Tharans, dodges their blaster fire, and then turns his head towards Edan.

LANE

Edan, calm down, we just need to get them away from the clearing.

Jael looks towards Lane

JAEEL

Maybe we try fighting a little fire with fire, Captain.

Jael takes out three explosives. He activates them and tosses them towards the three Tharan soldiers firing at him.

THARAN SOLDIER

Explosives incoming.

The three soldiers cease fire and run away but the explosives detonate on impact and kills two of the Tharan soldiers.

The explosions end up causing structural damage to a few of the nearby trees and some of them get knocked over.

LANE

Jael, are you crazy? You'll take down the entire forest down.

Lane fires towards the Tharans and strikes one down.

Edan fires at the Tharans until his rifle stops working. He frantically searches his backpack and takes out various items.

EDAN

Captain, I'm out.

LANE

Hang tight for now. Wait until we can turn the tide, soldier.

Jael is shooting at the Tharans. He looks towards Edan.

JAEL

If you can get to it, I have some extra magazines in my backpack.

Edan looks over to Jael's backpack and blaster rifle, propped up against a nearby tree. Edan ducks down and reaches out to grab the backpack but it is out of reach of his cover.

EDAN

I can't reach it.

Lane turns his head over towards Aron, who takes cover behind a rock in the center of the clearing.

LANE

Aron, have you spotted any more snipers?

ARON

Not yet, but they still could be up there.

Aron looks through the sniper rifle's scope and uses it to search for snipers hiding in the trees. Aron looks at a SECOND THARAN SNIPER hiding in the trees. Aron takes aim at him.

ARON (CONT'D)

Gotcha.

Aron pulls the trigger and shoots the second sniper through the eye, killing him instantly. The body falls out of the tree and to the ground.

LANE

Nice shot soldier. You see anyone else?

ARON

Still looking.

Edan looks over at the Tharan soldiers that are closely approaching his location. He looks over at Jael's backpack.

EDAN

Captain, I'm going for it.

LANE
Soldier, I am ordering you to stay
put.

Edan looks over at the Tharans, back to the backpack, and
back to Lane.

EDAN
Sorry, Captain.

LANE
Edan, wait.

Edan runs for the backpack.

Hiding in the tress directly above Jael, a Tharan sniper
shoots Edan in the chest and Edan falls to the ground, dead.

LANE (CONT'D)
Edan!

Aron takes aim at the sniper while the sniper takes aim at
him. Aron pulls the trigger and shoots the third sniper in
the shoulder.

The sniper puts pressure on his wound and looks down.
Directly beneath him, Jael has his rifle aimed directly at
him. Jael shoots him in the head, killing him instantly.

LANE (CONT'D)
Enough of this. Light them up.

Lane, Aron, and Jael all get up from their cover spots and
open fire on the nine remaining Tharan soldiers.

Jael takes out the three closest to him, Aron takes three
more with the sniper rifle, and Lane takes out the two
closest to him.

ARON
Was that all of them?

LANE
Not yet, I know I saw at least one
more when they ambushed us.

The last Tharan hides behind a tree and reloads his blaster.

JAEL
Maybe he went back for
reinforcements?

The Tharan comes out of hiding with his blaster pointed at
Lane but he gets shot in the chest and dies.

The four soldiers look to the opposite side of the clearing where an injured Xan holds a still smoking pistol in his shaky left hand and puts pressure on the wound on his left shoulder with his right hand.

Xan smiles.

XAN

And to think you guys weren't going to leave me any action for myself.

LANE

How's the wound soldier?

Xan lowers his blaster.

XAN

It hurts like hell.

Xan moves his arm and flinches in pain. He stops smiling.

XAN (CONT'D)

I should probably stay out of the action for the rest of the mission.

LANE

How's the girl holding up?

The soldiers look over at Reth, silently looking back at them and propped up against the tree where Lane left her.

XAN

She's seriously injured, but she'll live. Though I don't know how much use she'll be to us in her current condition.

LANE

What about Edan?

Xan takes a deep breath.

They all look towards Edan's body, lying where he was shot by the sniper. They run up to his body.

Xan crouches down in front of Edan and feel for his pulse using his left hand. He turns his head to face his companions.

XAN

I'm sorry guys, there's nothing we can do. He's gone.