Interrogation

Scene 1

Aphelios Delta, Ion Storm, Gamma sector, 16th November 2034 08:00 UTC

The engines of the Aphelios Delta stop

Arron: This is it. The engines are off and there’s no contact with the outside universe from here, not even by teleport.

Max: You’re insane! The ion storm could tear this ship apart

Arron: Hardly, the ship’s shielding will stop that. Since our group formed, each of you were equipped with contact lenses that recorded your every move. I’ve run through the files and there are several occasions when each of your lenses went down. Someone’s trying to hide something! You’ll each be interviewed soon, dismissed.

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Interrogation room A, 10:00 UTC

Arron enters the room to find Max waiting for him

Max: You know this is insane right, I’m not a traitor

Arron: Didn’t you join a rebellion against your planet’s Queen?

Max: Because she was a psychopath, considered a criminal in many sectors and under her rule people were suffering and dying.

Arron: Before that, who were you?

Max: Is this important?

Arron: I’m building a character profile, so… yes

<Transition into Flashback>

Scene 2

Capitol District, Tamaran, 21st September 2029, 19:00 UTC

<Max>: I was a general in the elite squadron (Max is shown wearing combat uniform) I was told to go deal with a bunch of insurgents that had congregated in the east sector (she lands, starbolts prepared) Komand’r had made it clear she wanted no survivors but… (She lands, finding the sector populated by women and children, all looking starved) they weren’t rebels, they were people who Komand’r had exploited.

<Arron>: I’m aware of Blackfire’s reputation, what lead you to lead them.

<Max>: I couldn’t bring myself to carry out Kommand’r’s orders, and Kommand’r doesn’t take disobedience. I defected before I could face her wrath (in the Royal Hall, she throws her helmet and storms out) serving a position of authority can give you a rather skewed view of the world around you. Being stripped of that, I could see how much Kommand’r’s rule had hurt people. I was never one to stay on the side-lines, so I decided to do something about it. (An assault on the royal palace is shown) I had her in sight, she seemed strangely powerless, I struck down a final blow. (She blasts her with a massive firebolt but sees her image pixelate) It was a hologuise, she was ready for us (the hologuise deactivates to see the body of a young boy, straight-jacketed and with his mouth taped) her brother, Ryand’r had been forced to wear the hologuise and take the fall. Ryand’r wasn’t a fighter, I stopped, and ran, left the planet.

<End of Flashback>

Scene 3

Interrogation room A, 10:34 UTC

Arron: You ran to Ugala, but despite having an alias ready, you already caused a scene at customs and got arrested

Max: One of the guys pinched my…

Arron: You can stop there, I reviewed security footage from the customs area, you should know the culprit no-longer works there, and will have trouble working anywhere again. (Arron presses a button on his wrist com and a list of dates and times appear in front of Max on the holo-screen) On the screen is a list of all the times your contacts went down and I can’t account for you, I need you to tell me where you were, you can type your answers on the holo-monitor, I’ll analyse them later. Once you’re done, you can go (he leaves the room)

Scene 4

Interrogation Room C, 11:20 UTC

Drox: I am not the traitor

Arron: The best way to prove that is to be honest with me in this interview. Your arrest and subsequent extradition to Ugula was for the murder of Martin Magalot

Drox: (Sighs) yes

Arron: A murder you admitted guilt to be but when questioned on your motive you never gave an answer. Why?

Drox: Because there wasn’t one

Arron: You don’t strike me as a psychopath, Drox-Zur. You didn’t fool anyone at the trial either, or you would’ve been placed in a mental hospital. No, this particular person was close to you in some way, how?

Drox: Never met him before

Arron: Your best course here is to be honest. I let you on the team, knowing what you’d done, do you really think I didn’t conduct my own investigation when I was setting up the Omega Project? I have a theory as to what actually happened, I just need you to fill in the details. You knew Martin Magalot, you knew him very well, perhaps too well, how long had you two been in a relationship?

Drox: How did you…? (He sighs) about 6 months.

<Transition into Flashback>

Scene 5

Apartment 17B, Rowe Apartments, Nyada, Ugala, October 31st 2031 18:00 EST

<Drox>: Me and Martin… we just got on and before I even realised what I was doing, we were in bed together (picture showing the two in the same bed) we had a good thing going, or so it seemed at the time, I didn’t realise what he was actually doing until 6 months later. (Martin shows Drox pictures of him and a random man in bed together)

Drox: What is all this?

Martin: The end of all this goes public. I’ve been wearing a glamour charm, it hides my identity from security cameras and photographs, makes me out to be someone else.

Drox: Please, what do you want?

Martin: 1 million credits. I know your family’s rich, you can get that easily.

Drox: I can’t tell them about us, my family wouldn’t approve.

Martin: (Shrugs) Damned if you do, damned if you don’t (Drox eyes the security camera, but sees it’s disconnected, so he eyes the glamour charm)

<Drox>: (Events described are seen) I wasn’t sure what else I could do, so I lunged for him, I knocked him down but he hit the bed so quickly his neck snapped. I ran, took a ship back to Daxxam but I’d left behind evidence, my DNA among other things, didn’t take them long to pinpoint the murder on me. I had a choice, be a murderer or be the guy who was dating an off-worlder, a male one at that. The shame that would bring on my family, being a murderer, and disowned was preferable so I confessed to the murder, and never revealed the motive, until now

<end of flashback>

Scene 6

Interrogation Room C, 11:43 UTC

Arron: I realise that must’ve been hard for you

Drox: How did you work it out?

Arron: The Police Report on the body said his body was coated in pheromones, since you didn’t confess any sexual attraction, it wasn’t considered relevant to your trial. Chances are if you’d admitted your relationship, they’d have drawn the connection to the pheromones, you’d be off scot free and with your family’s reputation would be in-tact. Funny how things go. Please account for your whereabouts at the times displayed on the screen (the times are displayed) thank you and I’m sorry you had to relive all this.

Drox: Hope you find the traitor

Scene 7

Interrogation Room D, 12:13 UTC

Brainiac 3.2: There is something you should know

Arron: What’s that?

Brainiac 3.2: During the mission on Veluntera, my systems were compromised. My previous incarnations all told me again and again that I was a failure and I should return to Colu.

Arron: You think Colu have been manipulating you

Brainiac 3.2: Possibly… through a third party.

Arron: You’re suggesting that Coluans have compromised you, making you the traitor without consciously knowing it

Brainiac 3.2: Yes

Arron: You could be right, but it’s unlikely

Brainiac 3.2: What makes you believe that?

Arron: I studied the footage I had, compared it with my own logs. I have almost a full timeline for you

Brainiac 3.2: Almost

Arron: Yeah, only time was on the ship when you returned to Veluntera that your contacts went down, I’ll see what I can get from Vanessa, pretty sure she’ll validate your whereabouts. Still, the Coluan angle warrants further investigation. You’re done (he leaves the room)

Brainiac 3.2: Thank you

Scene 8

Interrogation Room E, 12:30 UTC

Shly is sitting in the room, looking solemn

Arron: I’m sorry to have kept you waiting.

Shly: Why not just have Ganalkra read our minds? If she finds nothing, surely that means she’s the traitor

Arron: It’s easy to point the finger, much harder to back it up with evidence. Simply combing through your history could help build a case

Shly: I’m not comfortable telling my story

Arron: I know you’re not. I know you suffer from PTSD, and I’m gonna have to dive into those memories to get a good picture of you. I’m sorry. Start from the beginning, please

Shly: Well, for start my name isn’t Shly, it’s just an abbreviation, Sarah H Lyarc, people called me Shly because I was the exact opposite of Sly…

<Flashback>

Scene 9

Service Satellite zero-alpha5, 20th September 2030, 20:00 UTC

<Shly>: I was a delivery driver at a rest stop, can’t even remember what the restaurant was called. They asked me to make a delivery to Rann. (We see her departing the station in a small ship) It wasn’t supposed to be a long trip, but as I passed Korbal, the engines in the ship shorted out (lightning blasts the ship from below) I had to make an emergency landing (Shly braces for impact as the ship crashes on the planetoid)

Scene 10

Korbal, 20th September 2030, 20:25 UTC

<Shly>: The planet seemed abandoned so I sent out a distress signal and began examining the engine, there was no charge left in the batteries, nothing I could do without another ship to jump-start me. I waited for hours but nothing seemed to happen. (She jumps to the top of her ship and sees a damaged transmitter) I realised my transponder had been damaged in the crash. It felt so hopeless (her stomach rumbles) I wondered if the restaurant would send out someone but after a couple of days I…

<Arron>: Days? How did you survive?

<Shly>: The climate was survivable, and there was a breathable at least, but then the quakes came. (The ground beneath her shakes) At first, I thought it was just tectonic shifts but they were getting worse, by day 4 I was barely alive, dehydrated and starved, I could barely even move. And then I saw what was causing the quakes (a giant horned monster approaches) the Lightning Beast, I was helpless as it blasted me with lightning (The creature blasts Shly with a massive lightning blast)

<end of flashback>

Scene 11

Interrogation Room E, 13:00 UTC

Shly is panicked, breathing fast breaths

Arron: It’s alright, you did really well. Thank you. When you’re able, I need you to account for your whereabouts during the times on the screen (a list appears in front of them) I’ll be back to you with the results soon (he leaves the room and soon the ship begins moving out of the ion storm)

Scene 12

Aphelios Delta, 1st December 2034, 06:00

Arron summons Alegra via hologram

Alegra: Well?

Arron: It all seems to check out, nothing in their past history suggests any likelihood of betrayal. Even so, there’s still the matter of who and why? They’re not likely to tell me.

Alegra: You’re not seriously suggesting what I think you’re suggesting.

Arron: Let the team continue as it is, I’m gonna insert a few bits of tracking software in their contacts, so if any of them try this stunt again, I’ll have a lead to the recipient. But otherwise, keep your enemies closer, right?

Alegra: And if they try and kill you?

Arron: Let them try, they’re still injected, I can still stop them any time I want to.

Alegra: Beware your pride

Arron: I’ve been betrayed before, Alegra, I know the risks. Just get those troops up and running again, I have a feeling we’re gonna need them sooner rather than later. (Allegra’s hologram disappears, Arron turns to the others) well, don’t just stare, we’ve got to get back to work.