



Holding the Line (1 of 1)
Featuring Anarax Meranos

Scene 1

Ephemeris-Omega, 16th October, 17:00 UTC

Anarax awakens from a short power-nap

Computer: Proximity alert

Anarax: Now what? (The scanners bring up a fleet of Pirate ships heading for the space station) Slykak

<Anarax>: Heard Arron had a run in with him a couple of months back, I was wondering when he'd come back to wreak revenge

Slykak: Arron Redbeard, come out and face execution or we'll take your whole base with us. Well, actually we'll do that anyway, but if you come quietly there's no need for it to get... too violent.

Anarax: Arron is not aboard the station at this moment, Slykak.

Slykak: Oh but his woman is on board. Now, I would hate to hurt a woman...

Anarax: Don't worry, you won't

Slykak: Very well, I was hoping we could avoid violence, but... Attack! (The fleet open fire upon the space station but Anarax is quick to activate the defences, the shields hold against the barrage)

Computer: Warning, hostiles attempting to teleport onto the base

Anarax: Guess we should give them a warm welcome (her hands convert to laser cannons, two pirates teleport in front of her, she knocks them out with laser blasts instantly, a pirate strikes her in the back with an electrified dagger, she grabs the guy from behind and throws him off, taking the dagger out of her back as she does so, 5 more pirates teleport in and begin opening fire, the base's defences begin to activate, stun turrets fire at the pirates, knocking them out, Slykak is teleported in but surrounded by a force-field which blocks all of the stun cannons)

Slykak: I'm not really into all this non-lethal weaponry but this base will serve as adequate compensation for the loss of my men. Surrender, you are no match for me

Anarax: You have no idea who I am (she grabs the electric knife a pirate tried to stick into her and sticks it into his force field, the electric charge disables the shield; she then punches him unconscious, 20 more pirates teleport onto the ship) go ahead, I just took out your boss (the pirates drop their weapons)

Pirate: Second time our boss had his ass handed to him and by a girl no less (Anarax shoots the pirate unconscious)

Anarax: Anyone else (the pirates stay silent) thought so. Now get your asses off of this space station (a sonic frequency knocks out the pirates and Anarax)

Scene 2

13 hours later

Arron: Thanks for helping me out on this one Ollie

Ollie: I think it's beginning to get to the point where you owe me now? So, what have you been able to determine

Arron: I found a stunner-knife in the base, doesn't belong to Anarax, best guess it's a pirate blade, certainly signs of a struggle but Anarax is more than a match for Slykak's army, especially since his elite forces were killed in Cheriba.

Ollie: Right, so any idea who did take her?

Arron: I detected some slight vibration of air molecules in the command centre, possibly some sort of sound wave attack. If there's any good news she's probably still alive and she can handle herself in a fight.

Ollie: So what do you need me for?

Arron: Anarax doesn't know this but she has an embedded tracker in her, that only a chosen few know how to use, I'm not one of them.

Ollie: How do you know that?

Arron: You didn't think I'd let her be my partner without background checks. She doesn't know I know, guess that secret's blown. The people who do know don't like me much; I was hoping you might be able to talk to them. (He hands Ollie a piece of paper)

Ollie: Halicious? Who names themselves Halicious

Arron: A robot that doesn't have spellchecker. She was going for Hayleigh

Ollie: Wait, Anarax's mother was the robot; how does that even work?

Arron: A race had long been brewing on the planet called the metalkind. Smart AI systems created by a guy long dead; they eventually worked out how to procreate, allowing them to build an army more stealthily than building factories. In what became a war, a geno-engineer called Jam Rudnick figured out a way to alter the machines to procreate with organic beings, I didn't understand most of his research but it only ever occurred once, with Anarax

Ollie: Sorry I asked.

Scene 3

Shadow Chambers, Planet Lymn

Anarax wakes up at the bottom of a meeting room

Head: Good evening Miss Meranos.

Anarax: Where the hell am I?

Head: I'm afraid that is highly classified, Miss Meranos but while I can't introduce myself, let me introduce my associates. The Phantom Stranger, The Question, The Spectre, Beta Ray Bill, Pandora, and Nix Uotan. We are the Council of Shadows

Anarax: Lovely, why am I here?

Head: We're in a dire situation, Midgard isn't seeing the worst of it yet, but Nedavilir has long fallen, Jotenheim and Svartalfheim fell in the last 2 months. The 9 realms are under attack and your wars are just a preliminary stage in that attack. A holographic map of the universe appears.

Nix Uotan: A year prior to the merge of your universe, the planet of Corbin was destroyed, the planet of which are friend Beta Ray Bill is from

Beta Ray Bill: Citizens that weren't taken by fire demons were evacuated. We were lucky

Phantom: The planet Yuka was no so lucky, we received word that it was destroyed along with nearly 5 billion people, a few abducted but most destroyed.

Spectre: So many souls resting unavenged

Question: Which raises the interesting question, what do the Korbinites and the Yukans have in common?

Anarax: More importantly, who's responsible for them (the council look at each other) you know (they bring up a hologram)

Beta Ray Bill: When I was taking my citizens to safety, I encountered Thor, who revealed that the demons were under the mastery of a demon called Surtur.

Pandora: Surtur is a god with no value for life. His only purpose is to see everything burn. But he's patient (pause) and powerful

Nix Utan: He was powerful before but the reality merge augmented his abilities, he was able to exact an influence over a select few minds, he's been manipulating Midgard for years.

Pandora: The event that led to the simultaneous release of all of Midgard's prisoners, we believe that might've been part of Surtur's plan. Also, the third army, created by the Guardians that's currently assimilating over 200 sectors, another of Surtur's machinations.

Anarax: Why have you called me here?

Head: Myself, Nix Uotan, The Phantom Stranger, Pandora and the Question are bound by oath to not interfere in these matters. The Spectre can only deliver divine vengeance, he cannot go after Surtur.

Anarax: Which leaves me and Beta Ray Bill
Head: Both specialists. You now know what is really happening and you realise that it is essential word not get out about how deep everything runs. Surtur could be exacting his influence over anyone, but you are not entirely organic, your robotic components might protect you from Surtur's influence. And we need that element of surprise if we're to defeat him in his current state. We will contact you with a couple of important assignments. Beta Ray Bill is assigned to finding out exactly why Surtur sought his people and those of Yuka.
Anarax: And what am I to do?
Head: We'll contact you with instructions in due course (the council chamber disappears, Arron appears out of the shadows)
Anarax: I take it Ollie managed to distract Halicious long enough for you to hack in and activate my tracker? (Arron smiles) how much of it do you hear?
Arron: Enough of it. If Surtur does have his hand in things, it explains a lot. And with Thor still in Asgard and the Avengers still missing, if we're to end this threat we've got a lot of work to do. Let's head back to the Ephemeris
Anarax: Captain Slykak?
Arron: Long gone, we'll deal with him another day (they are teleported away together)

Scene 4

Council of Shadows, unknown location

The Phantom Stranger, Pandora, The Spectre, The Question and Beta Ray Bill have left

Nix Uotan: As we expected, Arron overheard our entire conversation.

Head: Good. Surtur can only exert his influence from a distance; he can't force someone to do something that isn't in their nature.

Nix Uotan: I know your identity is highly classified, but who are you? I can see the entire multiverse unravelling in this crisis but I can't see you, why?

Head: Right now, my name isn't important, ending this crisis is.

Nix Uotan: You are right (he disappears, leaving the head alone in the council chamber)

Head: Every step going as planned (she steps out of the shadows, revealing herself to be a humanoid machine creature, with similar features to Count Nefarious) just have to keep it under control

To be continued, later