

Book IV

SOLAR WARS

THE DAWN OF TWO SUNS

A long time ago, in unmeasurable eons of time... not in some distant galaxy, far, far away... but right here, in our own cosmic backyard... in our solar system... there was no earth!

Chapter 15

The Final Mission, Part 5



Kael'Ryn
MERCURY



Princess Lysara
VENUS



General
Vaelor Krynn
MARS



VX-17 (Vex)
Combat-Droid
JUPITER



The
Shallit'Biru



Xal'Zirath
MERCURY

DEE DOWNING

Chapter 15: The Final Mission, Part 5

A barrage of plasma and bullets tore through the trees, lighting up the night like a storm of fire. The quintet threw themselves behind a row of supply crates just inside the gates, ducking as rounds zipped past their heads.

Xal peeked over the crate just in time to see a Rezzak take a direct hit... three high-powered plasma shots straight to the chest. The force sent it skidding backward, smoking wounds punched into its thick hide.

It barely flinched.

Then it roared. A terrible, rage-filled sound that sent a physical shudder through the air.

The others answered.

Four more Rezzak surged from the tree line, their bodies blurs of jet-black armor and glinting claws.

The first Rezzak launched itself at the wall, claws digging into reinforced steel as if it were paper. The soldiers barely had time to react before the beast ripped through the first turret, tearing it free in a shower of sparks.

The second Rezzak hit the eastern gate, plowing through it like a battering ram. Metal groaned, beams bent, and suddenly the fortress designed to withstand an assault from any formidable enemy forces was being peeled apart like a fragile shell.

"By the power of Ra! They're breaking in!" A **soldier's** panicked voice filled the coms.

"Hold the line! HOLD!"

A Rezzak landed on the nearest guard tower. Clawed limbs wrapped around the structure, snapping it in half. The poor soldier inside never had a chance... One swipe sent him screaming into the night.

The outpost was doomed.

Kael and Lysara wasted no time. *"This way!"* **Kael** barked, grabbing Xal and pulling him toward the side of a crumbling storage unit. Vex was already scanning for a path through the carnage.

A Rezzak barreled into the central barracks, its sheer force caving in the roof. Eclipse soldiers scattered, firing wildly, but their weapons barely slowed the rampaging creatures.

Then came the final blow.

The largest Rezzak, the one that had been closest to Xal back in the den, emerged from the smoke. It reared up on its hind legs, towering over the battlefield. Its amber eyes burned with fury as it let out a piercing, bone-shaking shriek.

Then it slammed both of its front claws into the ground.

The shockwave ripped through the outpost, sending Eclipse soldiers flying. Structures buckled. Fires ignited. The walls of the once-impenetrable base collapsed inwards.

And in the middle of the chaos... the quintet ran.

Through smoke and debris, dodging the collapsing remains of the outpost, sprinting toward the back entrance where the Eclipse had stored their transport ships.

The Rezzak weren't after them anymore.

They were ripping the outpost to shreds.

Xal spared one last glance over his shoulder, just in time to see a soldier screaming as a Rezzak's jaws closed around him... a flash of teeth, a spray of blood, and then nothing.

The hangar doors loomed ahead, half-crushed by the destruction tearing through the outpost. Fires licked at the metal framework, smoke billowing into the night sky. Eclipse transports lay in ruins, some half-buried under debris, others still intact but swarmed by Rezzak. Escape was looking grim.

Then **Vex's** voice cut through the chaos. *"General Krynn. South corridor. Secondary hangar."*

Krynn didn't question it. *"Follow me!"*

They veered sharply, sprinting past the main landing area as another Rezzak barreled through a burning structure, sending bodies and metal flying. Screams echoed in the air... the sounds of men dying, the sounds of a base falling.

They pushed through a half-collapsed security checkpoint, emerging into a hidden sector of the hangar... one untouched by the carnage. A single craft sat in the center of the room, sleek and pitch black, its reflective hull absorbing the firelight around it.

It was unlike any ship any of them had ever seen.

Krynn slowed to a stop. His eyes flicked across the craft's structure, taking in its smooth, jagged design... A predator in ship form. The insignia was barely visible, obscured by the ship's chameleon plating.

A prototype. A secret project.

Krynn's lips curled into a smirk. *"This baby is leaving with me."*

Vex was already interfacing with the console, overriding the lock systems. The hatch hissed open, revealing a sleek interior... plush seating, reinforced blast shields, advanced controls. This wasn't just a ship. It was a game-changer.

"Inside! Now!" **Krynn** barked.

Kael and Xal didn't need to be told twice. They bolted up the ramp, Lysara right behind them. The moment Krynn and Vex stepped in, the hatch sealed shut.

The ship hummed to life beneath them.

Krynn slid into the pilot's seat, his hands gripping controls that felt like they were made for him. Screens lit up, scanning his vitals. *Voice recognition engaged.*

A synthetic voice whispered through the coms: *"Welcome, Commander. Stealth prototype XK-07, online."*

Krynn's grin widened. *"Welcome to the real world."*

Outside, the outpost was a graveyard.

Flames engulfed the remains. Rezzak stalked through the ruins, finishing off the last Eclipse survivors. Their screams were lost in the roar of fire and destruction.

Krynn flicked a switch. Engines ignited.

The ship lurched upward with a power not familiar to anyone... silent, smooth, a ghost in the night.

Xal glanced out the viewport just as a final explosion consumed the outpost, sending shockwaves rippling through the valley.

Their mission was a success. The enemy stronghold on Pheldhor was gone.

And they were leaving it in a wave of fire... without firing a shot.

The ship knifed through the sky, piercing the atmosphere in a streak of silver.

Below, the largest of the Rezzak swung its massive head, tracking the ascending vessel. It let out a ferocious roar, a sound of fury and defiance lost to the deafening inferno.

At the controls, Krynn exhaled, fingers tightening around the throttle. This was his ship now.

Xal broke the silence. *"Kael... What's bothering you **now**?"*

Kael's eyes stayed fixed ahead. *"Something's off... When we first arrived, we had to hide from that battle cruiser. What happened to it? Where did it go? It could've wiped out the Rezzak attack from orbit."*

Lysara turned in her seat. *"You say this now?"*

Krynn's expression didn't waver. *"Whoever they were... they're long gone."*

Vex's voice came through, cool and measured. *"Just like we are, General... just like we are."*