

Shadow Squadron: Blockade

written by

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1

EXT. TORIAN SYSTEM

1

A solar system with a yellow sun similar to our own and a number of planets of various sizes. There are no gas giants.

SUPER: TORIAN SYSTEM, SEVERAL MILLION LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH, FINAL DAYS OF THE TORMESIAN CIVIL WAR.

ZOOM IN:

A giant Earth-like planet with blueish-green oceans, red forests, and sprawling dark lumps of dead cities.

The planet is surrounded by a massive blockade of Torian Imperium Starships. Cylindrical dark grey military ships with beak-like noses and metal tail feathers that curve around the engines. Three FTL rings are set into the ships at equal intervals with glowing green lights along them.

The Trinity Star, a massive Armageddon-class warship and five other military ships crudely painted white, to mark them as rebel ships, are reversing away from the planet. The arms of their rings are extending out from the vessels, rotating slowly.

They're exchanging fire with the blockade, attempting to shield a group of civilian ships (transports, freighters, passenger lines, etc.) from the enemy barrage.

The rebel fleet is surrounded by debris from the battle.

CUT TO:

2

EXT. CITY OF RODAL - SAME TIME

2

One of the planet's many dead cities, crumbling concrete towers with no personalization. Three Spectre Shuttles, beetle-looking, shiny white ships, are sitting on a landing pad.

The shuttles are surrounded by Tormesians, short humanoid aliens with translucent-like blue skin and six fingers. Scared refugees with nothing but the tattered clothes on their backs and soldiers in black and red camo with whatever armour and weapons they could find.

The soldiers are helping the refugees board the shuttles.

DAVANEC (30 Earth years), a veteran special forces officer with a black and grey special forces camo uniform and full military equipment, short pale blue hair, and an earpiece with a microphone, directs the refugees to the ship.

COMMAND (OVER RADIO)
Spectre two-six, evacuation status?

Davanec places her hand against her comm.

DAVANEC
We're loading the last now. Do we have a path?

COMMAND (OVER RADIO)
No. No path. We've had to withdraw.

Davanec stops directing refugees and focuses on her comm.

DAVANEC
Without your cover, we won't make it out of the atmosphere.

Davanec looks at the refugees desperately cramming themselves into the shuttles. Her comm crackles to life.

JORAMAC (OVER RADIO)
This is Shadow Leader in the rogue. Hold on, Captain, we'll clear a path.

3 EXT. PLANET BLOCKADE - MOMENTS LATER 3

An explosion rips apart a Shadow MK VII starfighter. A black starfighter with a long, bulky nose ending at the cockpit where three fins begin, one above the cockpit and one on either side at a 45-degree angle. The wings angle slightly away from the nose until the end, where the angle becomes sharper. Each wing has a large rotatable engine halfway down its length.

A Shadow MK IV, a slimmer MK VII with a narrower nose, cuts through the explosion.

Two dozen identical starfighters follow behind it into a lane between two starships.

4 INT. SHADOW LEADER COCKPIT 4

JORAMAC (mid-thirties), the renegade star pilot in a full Tormesian flight suit (basic flight suit + inertia armour) and helmet.

A full-face glass visor (similar to a hockey visor) shines his face in light, which makes his skin look even bluer.

JORAMAC

Focus on fighters and turrets. We must clear this corridor.

A screen on the left side of the cockpit lights up. MERAMAC (early thirties), a seasoned Tormesian pilot and second in command with short dark blue hair and similar facial features to Joramac, appears on screen.

MERAMAC (OVER RADIO)

Shadow Two copies. First Wing, we take the fighters.

Meramac is replaced on screen with SERAHATAK (mid-thirties), a veteran Tormesian pilot, and Joromoc's promised (similar to fiancée).

SERAHATAK (OVER RADIO)

Second Wing will take the turrets.

JORAMAC

Third Wing divide and assist.

Joramac grabs the small lever next to the throttle and pulls it back.

5 EXT. PLANET BLOCKADE - SAME TIME

5

The engines on the starfighter wings rotate to alter course, pushing the fighter back toward space, and pointing the nose at one of the starships. Green bolts fire from its guns, corresponding explosions ripping into the starship's armour.

CUT TO:

Later, considerably fewer starfighters are engaged in a dogfight with their blockade counterparts. Pilots zigging and zagging through the space between the two cruisers.

A blockade starfighter is ripped apart by plasma fire.

JORAMAC (OVER RADIO)

Captain, what's the status of the evacuation?

DAVANEC (OVER RADIO)

We have broken the gravity well.

The shuttles push through the fighter's wreckage in a single-file column. The lead shuttle firing its cannons.

JORAMAC (OVER RADIO)
 Shadows 8 to 16 escort them to the
 fleet. The rest cover their
 retreat.

Four starfighters form around the shuttles, escorting them away from the blockade. Joramac, Meramac, and Serahatak's fighters stay behind.

CUT TO:

Later, the remaining five Shadow Squadron starfighters battle the blockade starfighters along the length of one of the starships, attempting to keep them from exiting the blockade and pursuing the evac shuttles. One of the Shadow fighters is blown apart.

A massive green bolt (Fired from one of the white ships) shoots down and hits the starship. It explodes into a giant fireball, rocking the starfighters toward the camera.

JORAMAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Juggernauts! That's our signal,
 Squadron, break off and head for
 hangar.

Shadow Squadron's engines rotate and fire, turn them around and stop when they point in the opposite direction. The engines spin back into place, and the fighters speed away from the blockade. One fighter is struck by a piece of debris as it withdraws and is destroyed.

The starfighters accelerate into open space. Joramac's fighter is in the rear, moving slower than the other two. His right engine explodes with a pop; the jet flickers and dies as smoke rises from it.

6 INT. SHADOW LEADER COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

6

Joramac is desperately adjusting his controls. The fighter is shaking badly.

JORAMAC
 Right engine's blown.
 (pause)
 Curse it, flak's too heavy. I'm not
 going to make it. Shadow Two,
 update your callsign.

MERAMAC (OVER RADIO)
 Negative Shadow Leader. We're
 banking around to you.

JORAMAC

No, I can't outrun them. Retreat
and update your callsign.

SERAHATAK (OVER RADIO)

Then we'll clear you a path.

JORAMAC

There are too many.

MERAMAC (OVER RADIO)

We can-

JORAMAC

Cease, little brother. It's too
late for me. Update your callsign
and return to the Trinity Star.

Silence.

INT. MERAMAC'S COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

Meramac shuts his eyes for a moment. He's on the verge of
tears.

MERAMAC (V.O.)

Understood. This is Shadow
Leader... Breaking off and
returning to hangar.

(pause)

Till we next patrol, brother.

Meramac steers his fighter away from the blockade and his
brother.