

UNTITLED WARHAMMER 40,000 ANIMATION

EXT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES. DAY

We follow an entitled -young girl (13/14) from behind as she ~~as she walks~~ strides down the ~~plush~~ luxurious corridors of the Spires. ~~She is clearly in a place of opulence, her strides are assured, entitled, but~~ She walks ~~past~~ passes a guard who stops and bows to her ~~as he passes~~, she ~~'s~~ is ~~also~~ clearly very important. ~~She smiles at the guard as she passes him and continues on.~~ U ~~ntil~~ she reaches a door, which she ~~quickly enters~~ slips through, ~~shutting it, shutting it~~ behind her.

INT. TRATULAN. UPPER SPIRES. ~~KYANA'S~~ KYANA'S ROOM. CONTINUOUS

We are looking over the girl's shoulder at KYANA (13/14), another girl similar to the first, who is in the final stages of getting ready. ~~She~~ looks up at the intrusion, ~~her face immediately a mix of confused and horrified~~. Then, ~~she~~ grabs a nearby ORNATE KNIFE ~~which sits nearby, bejewelled~~ bejewelled, ~~and~~ but ~~deadly, -to strike her intruder with. However, but before she has a chance to~~ can ~~attack, the intruder~~ girl ~~moves quickly across the room, too quickly, but before we see what happens~~ lunges at her.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES BALCONY. LATER.

A man sways, looking down from the balcony. ~~This is~~ GOVERNOR THOIRA, the planetary ~~governor~~ Governor of Tratulan. He has a GLASS in his hand, and we follow his POV, looking down off the balcony. ~~there's~~ There's not much to see, ~~a~~ thick layer of smog, ~~there's~~ and some sunlight, ~~at this level, but it's still~~ still hazy from the pollution. An ADVISOR enters, ~~gently and clearly~~ clears his throat to draw the ~~Governor's~~ Governor's attention.

ADVISOR

Governor THOIRA, ~~the~~ the ~~Tratulan~~ council awaits your presence.

The Governor grunts in ~~acknowledgement~~ acknowledgement, while still looking down, almost like ~~he's~~ he's trying to see through the smog. The Advisor waits a beat ~~patiently~~, but when the GOVERNOR doesn't move, ~~there doesn't look like there will be any movement~~ he presses him.

ADVISOR (~~CONT'D~~ CONT'D)

(tentatively)

My Lord..?

The Governor ~~takes one more~~ looks around before nodding, ~~knocking back his drink~~, and turning to enter ~~back into~~ the ~~sspire~~, the Advisor following.

Commented [BT1]: Should this be INT.?

Commented [BT2]: Added for clarity.

Commented [BT3]: Avoid using adverbs that don't change the meaning of the sentence they're in.

Commented [BT4]: There is no need to put "cut to" in script.

Commented [BT5]: How can we communicate this to the viewer? Consider adding dialogue to the ADVISOR, greeting the GOVERNOR by name and title.

Commented [BT6]: As per the previous comment, the Governor's name and the planet he rules over can be added here.

Commented [BT7]: Drawing attention to his drinking.

INT. TRATULAN. COUNCIL ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

The Governor enters, ~~and~~ everyone stands. ~~Some~~ nod with respect, ~~while~~ others ~~have a vague scowl on their faces~~ scowl. ~~We~~ pause for a moment on a ~~couple of the faces of INKA, an old woman bent by age, and TOBIAS that will prove to be important later, this includes INKA, an old woman, bent by age, and TOBIAS,~~ a man who might be in his 30s, ~~with~~ sharp features ~~and~~ cunning eyes.

Commented [BT8]: This may be too old, depending on her role in the narrative going forward.

The Governor continues to the end of the table, where the only empty seat lies, ~~h~~. He sits and signals for everyone to do the same. ~~There are a few SERVO SKULLS~~ a few SERVO-SKULLS buzz around the room. The Governor taps the goblet ~~in front of~~ before him, and a ~~SERV-SERV~~ an older man called MALK ~~rushes forward to, this is MALK, an older man, he fills up the Governor's goblet~~ fill it. The Governor ~~then~~ hands ~~it~~ the goblet ~~to him~~ to MALK, who, ~~he~~ takes a sip. ~~There~~ is a momentary pause ~~while~~ everyone watches Malk, waiting ~~for something to happen~~ anything happens. ~~Then, satisfied that the wine is safe, the Governor~~ Satisfied that the wine is not ~~poison, the Governor~~ takes ~~back~~ the goblet ~~back, swallows,~~ ~~taking~~ a large gulp, ~~he~~ ~~and~~ turns to his council.

GOVERNOR

Very well, let us begin.

The council breaks out ~~to talk all at once~~ in chorus, ~~and~~ we only hear snippets of what they say:

COUNCILMAN 1

~~There's~~ There's been a delay in food supplies from the ~~NAME~~ system.

Commented [BT9]: Did you have a system in mind? If not, it could be a system from within the Calixis Sector, such as Golgenna Reach. Just a suggestion.

COUNCILWOMAN 1

Riots in the Underhive.

COUNCILMAN 2

The Goliath gang ~~are~~ trying to expand their territory.

Commented [BT10]: The gangs are mentioned several times. We may as well name them.

COUNCILWOMAN 2

Factorum Delta has missed ~~their~~ ~~its~~ last two quota targets.

And on and on, their voices blur together ~~as~~ ~~and~~ the Governor ~~takes~~ ~~pours~~ another large drink ~~for himself~~.

INT. TRATULAN. COUNCIL ROOM. LATER.

The light is a little ~~darker~~ ~~dimmer,~~ ~~s~~. Some time ~~has~~ ~~past~~ ~~passed.~~ ~~There's~~ still some discussion, but ~~less than before, and~~ the Governor is slumped at the top of the table, staring into space ~~despondently~~. Inka observes him.

3.

INKA

~~I think that is enough for today~~ That's enough, ~~t~~. The Governor is very busy, ~~r~~ and has other duties to attend to. ~~W~~~~I~~ ~~suggest we reconvene tomorrow to continue.~~

Commented [BT11]: I made Inka more commanding/direct.

~~Nods~~ Nodding ~~and murmuring all round,~~ the other ~~members of the council~~ council members, busy themselves with the task of ~~exiting~~ stand to exit the room, with ~~Inka moves more slowly~~ delaying her departure, watching the others exit. Tobias is the last to leave, ~~h~~, and ~~he clocks~~ clocks Inka before he goes, his face impassive. ~~Then, once~~ ~~when~~ he is gone, Inka turns to the remaining serfs and guards.

Commented [BT12]: The script could use more moments like this. If we can define Inka and Tobias' conflict for the viewer, it will make the ending much more resonant. Perhaps an extra scene between them in the second/third act.

INKA (CONT'D/CONT'D)

Leave us.

The serfs ~~immediately~~ scurry off, ~~but~~ the guards pause, looking to the Governor for confirmation, ~~h~~. He waves a vague hand, and they depart. ~~Alone now,~~ Inka crosses the room to the Governor, ~~taking the seats~~ sitting to his right. ~~She~~ gently places ~~a her~~ hand on his, drawing his attention to her, ~~h~~. He seems to come to, shaking himself back to reality, ~~and w~~. ~~When she knows she's~~ ~~she's~~ got his attention, ~~she asks him a question.~~

INKA (CONT'D/CONT'D)

Have you thought any further about our ~~conversation?~~

The Governor looks simultaneously exacerbated and ~~also~~ angry.

GOVERNOR

Inka, we have discussed this. It is heresy for us ~~to even have this~~ ~~even to have this discussion.~~

INKA

(~~interrupting~~ interrupting)
But-

GOVERNOR

Enough! Our families have a long history together, ~~loyalty and~~ ~~loyalty has been~~ built over generations, which is the only reason I ~~haven't~~ ~~haven't~~ sent for an Inquisitor.

~~This~~ ~~The threat~~ stops Inka in her tracks ~~and leaves her looking terrified.~~ ~~She looks immediately fearful at the idea.~~

INKA

My apologies, ~~My~~ Lord. ~~Of course,~~ ~~you are correct.~~ I didn't mean to ~~impose.~~

Commented [BT13]: It may be worth hinting what they spoke about during their previous conversation during their conversation. Leaving the viewers completely out in the cold is likely to disengage them. This exchange is a little too short anyway, so a few more lines of dialogue won't hurt.

She stands ~~abruptly, bowing and bows~~ before ~~she~~ shuffles out of the room, smaller somehow. The Governor follows her with his eyes, before slumping back, sighing ~~and having~~ ~~finishing his drink from earlier.~~

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. ~~TOBIAS'~~ TOBIAS' OFFICES. NIGHT.

Tobias sits at his office desk ~~in his office~~, data-slate in hand, scrolling through information. A servo-skull is nearby. Then, there is a gentle knock on his door, and MALK enters.

TOBIAS

You're late.

MALK

My deepest apologies, ~~My Lord,~~ Lady Inka removed all witnesses-

Tobias ~~faces~~ raises his hand, cutting off ~~Malk's~~ Malk's words, and pushes himself up. ~~He~~ Then, he ~~slowly rises from his table, and stalks around his desk, he moves to to~~ loom over Malk.

TOBIAS

If you cannot provide me with what I need, then what use are you?

Malk covers before ~~Tobias'~~ Tobias' wrath.

MALK

Please, ~~My Lord-~~

~~Malk is cut off as~~ Tobias backhands him across the face, before turning away, dismissing him with a flick of his wrist. Malk leaves, and Tobias returns to his desk, picking up his data-slate, before tossing it aside with frustration.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES CORRIDOR. DAY

Inka walks down the corridor with two members of the council, a man and a woman, KWIN and VESPIRIN. They whisper in hushed, urgent tones.

VESPIRIN

We cannot continue without him. You must try again, ~~you've~~. You've ~~given it~~ waited long enough.

KWIN

The soldiers are getting restless, and supplies are becoming ~~scarser~~ scarcer by the day. If we ~~don't~~ don't do something soon, ~~we'll~~ we'll have a riot on our hands, one we cut cont-

Commented [BT14]: Rewrote to show his drinking habit is a problem.

Commented [BT15]: Could we seed something here? Perhaps he is looking at Inka's profile, or a missing shipments.

Commented [BT16]: What relationship does Tobias have with Malk? I suspect he wouldn't ask Malk questions but make threats/demands.

Commented [BT17]: From this script, I still have no idea why Tobias is frustrated or cares so much. His character needs much more development.

INKA
(interrupting)
Hush!

She looks around the corridor.

INKA (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)
(hushed)
We cannot rush him. ~~W~~Whether it takes a month or a year, he will come around, but we must let him come to us, or all will be lost.

She ~~glances~~looks around again, furtively.

INKA (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)
No more. The Emperor has eyes and ears everywhere.

Sure enough, we pan down the corridor to discover Malk, hidden in the shadows, ~~h~~. He scurries off to report what ~~he's~~ he's heard.

INT. TRATULN. HIVE WORLD. DINING ROOM. NIGHT.

The Governor sits in a luxurious ~~plush~~ dining room. ~~T~~The table is beautifully made, and there are serfs all around him, ready to cater to ~~whatever he needs~~his every need. He ~~is~~ looks more tired than when we last saw him, ~~;~~ stubble marks his chin, and he retains ~~the~~ his vacant and concerned look ~~on his face~~. Then, ~~w~~e hear young laughter as Kyana enters, and the ~~Governor's~~ Governor's face changes, ~~he~~ lights lighting up at the sight of her. ~~S~~he runs ~~up~~ ~~toward~~ him, and he rises to meet her, catching her in his arms. ~~Both~~ Both laughing now, ~~he~~ swings her around, before ~~gently~~ placing her back on the ground with immense care.

GOVERNOR
Have you had a good day, petal?

She smiles as she moves to sit next to him at the table, at the only other place set, ~~t~~. This is clearly the whole family, or ~~what's~~ what's left of it.

KYANA
My tutors were making me study the catechisms of the God-Emperor. It was dull.

GOVERNOR
(faux-stern)
You must speak of the God-Emperor with respect, petal, ~~h~~. He is the great saviour of our galaxy.

Commented [BT18]: Rewrote to be more world-appropriate. Thoughts?

Commented [BT19]: Again, changed "plush" to "luxurious" to better fit the world.

Commented [BT20]: Good contrast with how we've seen him up until now.

Food comes out and is placed in front of them. It does not look appealing, and Kyana turns her nose up at it.

KYANA

What is this?

The Governor looks to the serf who served it.

SERF 1

I am afraid that supplies are limited, ~~w.~~ We-

The Governor raises a hand and looks to Kyana.

GOVERNOR

The God-Emperor must sometimes test us, ~~r~~ to ensure our piety. Tratulán is going through such a test right now, but fear not, petal, ~~t.~~ It will soon pass.

Kyana goes to eat.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~ CONT'D)

Wait! You know the rules.

She stops, chastened. Serf 1 takes a bite of her food, whilst Serf 2 takes a bite of the ~~Governor's~~ Governor's. There is a pause as they wait, ~~w.~~ Then, when nothing happens, the Governor turns to Kyana.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~ CONT'D)

Enjoy...

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. DINING ROOM. LATER.

Kyana and the Governor still sit at the table. ~~T,~~ the plates have been cleared away, and they are simply enjoying time together.

KYANA

If the God-Emperor is ~~all-all-~~ powerful, why is our food so bad?

GOVERNOR

~~You-Do you~~ remember the supply routes I showed you?

She ~~_~~
nods.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~ CONT'D)

Well, one of those routes supplies us with food from the ~~NAME~~ alixis Sector, but the ships that travel from there keep getting lost.

Commented [BT21]: The purpose of this scene—delivering exposition to the viewer—could be strengthened by also showing their relationship. Perhaps they are not enjoying their time together—Kyana failed to finish her food, much to his concern. Maybe she's going hungry, which makes the planet's struggle much more personal to him, and strengthens his reasoning for turning against the Imperium. Suddenly the dialogue changes from a low-stakes conversation between a father and his curious daughter to a father having to explain to his daughter that he and his choices are the reason she is going hungry, and he is doing nothing to stop it.

Commented [BT22]: Calixis Sector?

Commented [BT23]: This sector contains agri-world and is in the Segmentum Obscurus. Suitable?

KYANA

~~Can't~~ Can't be very good ships, then.

GOVERNOR

~~It's~~ It's more complicated than that, petal. ~~T~~, they must travel through the Sea of Souls, a perilous journey, and right now, the sea roils ~~s~~ and the ships, so they lose their bearings.

KYANA

Why ~~can't~~ can't the God-Emperor calm the sea down? ~~He's~~ He's a god.

GOVERNOR

The galaxy is vast and dangerous, ~~;~~ only the strong can survive. Sometimes, we must be tested ~~so~~ ~~that we don't to avoid~~ losing sight of that.

Kyana nods as if this makes total sense. Then, when she looks away, we see a flash of uncertainty cross the Governor's face.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES CORRIDOR. LATER

Kyana walks down the corridor, almost skipping, until she reaches her room, ~~w~~. We follow her inside.

INT. TRATULAN. UPPER SPIRES. ~~KYANA'S~~ KYANA'S ROOM. CONTINUOUS

The moment the door shuts behind her, her demeanour shifts. ~~She's~~ She's less childlike, more confident and assured. She approaches her desk, lifting the ornate dagger we saw earlier. ~~She~~ acts out a few manoeuvres with it. ~~T~~here is nothing childish about her movements. ~~She~~ turns and flings the dagger across the room, so it lands dead centre of her FAMILY CREST, embroidered into a BANNER. We see a flash of a sharp smile, ~~before~~ ~~there is~~ a knock on the door.

She pads over to the door, ~~opening~~ opens it, and ~~takes~~ opens a sealed note before quickly shutting it again. She opens the note, reads it, and throws it in the fire. Her face suggests nothing about the nature of the message.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES CORRIDOR. DAY

Two serfs whisper in a corridor outside a door. We ~~can't~~ can't ~~hear~~ what ~~they're~~ they're saying, and ~~they~~ ~~and~~ cease conversing as soon as they see Inka approach, flanked by two guards.

INKA

Show me.

One opens the door and lets Inka enter.

8.

INT. TRATULAN. UPPER SPIRES. ~~KWIN'S~~ KWIN'S ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Inka steps in, and her eyes are ~~immediately~~ drawn to the bed, where an APOTHECARY stands inspecting the body of Kwin, who lies dead.

Report. INKA

APOTHECARY

Nothing definitive, ~~My Lady.~~ I suspect a defect of the heart.

INKA
Any signs of poison?

APOTHECARY
No, ~~My Lady.~~ ~~And I'm-I'm~~ assured Lord Kwin complied with all protocols.

Inka nods, though she ~~doesn't-doesn't~~ look convinced. She turns to one of the serfs nearby.

INKA
~~Find Lady Vespurin at once and tell her to meet me in~~ ~~bring her to my rooms immediately.~~ Their families were very close, and I must break the news to her myself.

The serf nods and departs. Inka looks at Kwin once more.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. ~~INKA'S-INKA'S~~ ROOMS. LATER.

The rooms are decadent but old, with everything frayed at the edges, like-as if the family has fallen on hard times. Inka sits on a settee, holding ~~Vespurin's-Vespurin's~~ hands and, consoling her.

VESPIRIN
~~You-~~ effect of the heart? He was barely past his 30th cycle. It wasn't his heart; it was murder.

INKA
Stop that.

VESPIRIN
Stop what? Kwin was murdered, and we're re-

INKA
We don't know that.

Inka's hand tightens around Vespurin's, making her wince.

INKA (CONT'D)
If they had any idea that we were planning a secession from the Imperium, we would all have been thrown from the highest spire already.

(beat)
Kwin got careless, and we're too close for you to make the same mistake, so pull yourself together.

Vespurin nods, fear etched on her face.

Commented [BT24]: Again, more commanding during dialogue.

Commented [BT25]: This scene's dialogue was a little flat. The purpose of this scene is for viewers to see Inka and Vespurin reacting to the first plot point, Kwin's murder, but neither of them seemed to have strong feelings about it. I rewrote Vespurin's lines to make them declarative, and adapted Inka's, so that both are convincingly reacting to what has happened.

VESPIRIN

I- what should I do?

INKA

We ~~can't~~-can't wait any longer. If Kwin was murdered, it was done by a professional. We must act now ~~to~~. The Governor must be made to see sense.

INT. TRATULAN. COUNCIL ROOM. DAY.

The council is in session again, with one noticeably empty chair. The Governor stands at the end of the table, finishing a speech.

GOVERNOR

It is a great loss to say goodbye to Lord Kwin, ~~who's~~-whose family have served loyally for generations ~~to~~. He was the last in his line, ~~his loss lies heavand~~ his loss lies heavily on us all.

He raises his glass, and the other council members follow suit.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)

Kwin, may the God-Emperor protect your soul.

Everyone drinks and settles back into their seats. After a moment of silence, the Governor continues.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)

Tell me, how are our supplies ~~to~~?

COUNCILWOMAN 1

We have rationed what we can, but we have perhaps two moon cycles left ~~to~~ before we must discuss culls.

Silence.

GOVERNOR

Very well. Bring me a list, and let us hope we never have use of it.

Councilwoman 1 nods. The Governor indicates Councilman 1 should go next.

INT. TRATULAN. COUNCIL ROOM. LATER.

The members of the council are exiting. This time, it is Tobias who remains behind for an audience. He, however, does not dismiss the guards or the serfs, but does wait for the rest of the council to leave.

TOBIAS

Governor...

GOVERNOR

Yes, Tobias, what need do you have of me?

TOBIAS

As ~~I'm~~-I'm sure ~~you're~~-you're aware, ~~Your~~ Excellence, the ships will arrive next moon to collect the tithe.

The Governor looks at him expectantly.

TOBIAS (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)

Well, ~~my~~ Lord, we are below our quota, well below it.

(beat)

Which is unusual, because we have never failed to meet our quota before, and looking at the records, ~~it's~~-it's almost as if some of the materials have simply disappeared.

The Governor looks at him sharply.

GOVERNOR

What are you suggesting, Tobias?

TOBIAS

For materials to disappear, in such large quantities, and for these disappearances to go on for so long...

(beat)

Some might question how this could go unnoticed by the council, and by you...

He lets the threat hang in the air. The Governor goes still,~~h~~. Then he rises from his chair and stalks towards Tobias, easily taller and more physically threatening than him.~~h~~ He looks down on him.

GOVERNOR

My family have been loyal to the Emperor since this planet was first reunited with the Imperium. There has never been a hint of suspicion;~~h~~ we have been above reproach, so I must ask, what evidence do you have of these accusations~~h~~?

Tobias does not quiver,~~h~~ and looks the Governor straight in the eye, unabashed.

TOBIAS

I am simply drawing your attention to a problem ~~that~~ we must rectify before the ships arrive for the tithe, ~~my~~My Lord.

He hands the Governor a data-slate, and the Governor reads through it.

GOVERNOR

We cannot make up these differences, not in a single moon cycle.

(beat)

Why are you only bringing this to me now?

Tobias feigns innocence.

TOBIAS

My apologies, Governor,~~h~~; I assumed you knew.

Tobias bows and turns away, and once his back is to the Governor, he allows himself a little smile.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. ~~INKA'S~~ INKA'S ROOMS. DAY.

Inka and Vespurin sit together, talking.

INKA

Tell me we have enough food stockpiled.

VESPIRIN

Enough to get us through two full cycles, if we ration.

Commented [BT26]: In this scene, I again replaced interrogative sentences (Inka) with declarative sentences. Here, it gives us a chance to see Inka's (and Vespurin's) character a little more, and how these two are with each other.

INKA
That isn't enough.

VESPIRIN
If we gain control of the orbital
docks within six moons, it will
leave three moons for ship
repairs and a full cycle to trade
with Garitha and return with food
and supplies.

Inka looks at her.

VESPIRIN (CONT'D/CONT'D)
It *is* enough.

Suddenly, the door is thrown open, and the Governor walks in. Both ladies rise and bow to him. He looks to Vespirin.

GOVERNOR
Leave us.

She nods and exits. Once she is gone, the Governor walks to a settee opposite Inka and slumps down, the weight of the world hanging heavy on him.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D/CONT'D)
We are in deep shit.

Inka is shocked by his language.

INKA
My Lord?

GOVERNOR
Tobias, the conniving bastard, has brought ~~it~~ to my attention that we do not have the supply to fulfil our tithe quota.

Inka does not look shocked, but the Governor is not looking at her.

GOVERNOR (CONT'D/CONT'D)
~~I've-I've~~ looked over everything,
~~I haven't slept in weeks, trying~~
~~to work out how we can make up~~
~~our shortfall, but there's~~
~~nothing.~~ I haven't slept in
weeks, trying to work out how we
can make up our shortfall, but
there's nothing. There's no way.

He looks like ~~he's-he's~~ about to break down. Inka ~~approaches~~
~~him and~~ sits beside him, offering comfort.

Commented [BT27]: Depending on the age rating of our target audience, we may have to consider language such as "shit" and "bastard". I wouldn't say it is needed here, and it stands out from the rest of the dialogue.

Commented [BT28]: Be more concrete. What does he do? Up to this point, he has drunk to deal with stress. Could he ask Inka if she has a drink he could have, and she declines him, showing us she has more power in this scene? For example: He picks up a glass and reaches for a bottle.
"May I?"
"No, you may not. It's me you came to see, so talk."

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)
I have heard rumours of what
befalls worlds who do not pay their
dues.

(beat)
I have been ~~lost-consumed in my~~
grief; I should not be surprised
that they saw blood in the water.

~~He stands gets up suddenly~~up, panicked, ~~and~~ unable to sit
~~back~~ down. Inka watches him calmly, pensively.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)
And what of Kyana? ~~My~~ life will
be forfeit, but will they take
hers, too?

He looks pleadingly to Inka.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)
Will she have to pay the price of
my stupidity?

There is a long pause as the Governor looks at Inka, hoping
for something, anything to grasp on-to.

INKA
There may be a way... but you won't
like it.

GOVERNOR
I don't have to like it ~~tell~~ me.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

We see flashes of moments across the planet

INKA (V.O.)
The pieces are in place.

- Planetary militia stand with ready weapons, ~~and there's~~
~~there's~~ no uniformity in them; ~~they look like they've~~
~~they've~~ been constructed with available materials.

INKA (V.O.)
But we must move quickly.

- Administrators look over stockpiles, ~~w.~~ We see food,
water, weapons, ~~the~~ supplies that have clearly been
~~'getting lost' - lost'~~ for the past months.

INKA (V.O.)
We will keep Kyana safe.

Commented [BT29]: The time between him finding out about the tithes and him pleading Inka for help is too short. A scene is needed where he tries and fails to solve the issue himself, before then turning to Inka and seceding from the Imperium.

Commented [BT30]: Potential inconsistency. If these missing supplies are the reason he's in trouble, when Inka reveals them to him, couldn't he just take them off her and pay the tithe? And if she doesn't tell him, then why would he agree to go along with such a plan?

- A knock on ~~Tobias'~~ Tobias' door, ~~h.~~ He nods knowingly, like he ~~isn't~~ ~~isn't~~ surprised to find himself being arrested.

INKA (V.O.)

We will make a better future for this planet, one that is free from the ~~Imperium's~~ ~~Imperium's~~ brutal regime.

INT. TRATULAN. COUNCIL ROOM. DAY.

Kyana sits at the head of the table, watching her father pace back and forth. Inka and Vespurin sit on either side of her, ~~s.~~ Some of the council members are there, but not all of them.

INKA

We have done it, ~~my~~ My Lord. We are ready.

GOVERNOR

I do not feel ready.

Kyana eyes her father. She rises, ~~and~~ brings him his goblet to drink from. He takes it from her, gulping it down, ~~w.~~ When he is finished, he gets down to her level.

GOVERNOR (~~CONT'D~~ ~~CONT'D~~)

Do you understand why we have to do this?

Kyana shakes her head.

KYANA

I thought this was a test.

GOVERNOR

It is, petal. ~~We~~ We have to prove that we are strong, ~~that we are~~ and worthy of the God-~~Emperor's~~ Emperor's blessings, and sometimes that means we have to fight.

KYANA

(whispered)

But it is heresy, father.

The Governor shakes his head, not wanting to hear this truth.

GOVERNOR

No, no. It is ~~them~~-~~them~~ who are the heretics. ~~T~~hey would have us destroyed for not delivering their tithe, all whilst the people of this planet starve because of their failed supply lines..

EXT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES BALCONY. LATER.

The Governor stands on the balcony, delivering his speech, which is being broadcast throughout the hive.

GOVERNOR

For too long, we have suffered under the crushing rule of the Imperium, a faceless ~~organisation~~~~organisation that who~~ we only see when they arrive to take their taxes. Quotas that go up, cycle after cycle, and what do we get in return?

CUT TO:

Commented [BT31]: Again, can usually do without these in a script.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. HIVE CITY. DAY

The people here are comfortable but not affluent in the way the upper spires are ~~;~~; their furnishings are basic, but they are provided for ~~;~~ and comfortable. We see people going about their lives, stopping to watch small pict screens.

GOVERNOR (V.O.)

They do not care that we are on the verge of starvation, ~~and o~~ ~~ur~~ requests for aid go unanswered.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UNDERHIVE. CONTINUOUS.

We see ~~a gang~~ in a bar. ~~T~~ ~~hey're~~ ~~hey're~~ jeering at the ~~Governor's~~ ~~Governor's~~ words, ~~not~~ buying that anyone from the Spires gives a shit about them.

Commented [BT32]: Which gang?

GOVERNOR (V.O.)

It is time we helped ourselves, but before we can help ourselves, we must free ourselves.

GANGER 1

Piss off!

GANGER 2

Come down ~~u~~'ere and say it to our faces, see how tough you are then!

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. SCUM. CONTINUOUS.

The very bottom of the hive. ~~No~~ pict screens here, so we only ~~here~~ hear a whisper of the ~~Governor's~~ Governor's speech continuing. As it does, we see movement, ~~the feeling that things are moving~~ in the darkness.

GOVERNOR (V.O.)
Each and every one of us must make sacrifices in the days ahead.

EXT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES BALCONY. LATER.

Back on the Governor, who signals for Kyana to come to him. ~~He~~ picks her up as he continues.

GOVERNOR
This is what must be done, to save ourselves, our families, and our world.

(beat)
The God-Emperor protects.

As he finishes, he starts to look strained, ~~h~~. He places Kyana down, ~~and then falls before falling~~ to his knees and, struggling. ~~He can't to breathe.~~ He knows ~~he's~~ he's dying, and in his final moments, he looks to his daughter, trying to smile, ~~trying and~~ to make sure ~~she's~~ she's not afraid, but her face reveals nothing, as ~~she she's~~ ~~watchin~~ ~~watches~~ her father die ~~him~~.

Meanwhile, Inka realises ~~what's~~ what's happening, and the guards sweep in to take Kyana away, while Inka rushes to the Governor, now dead.

INT. TRATULAN. UPPER SPIRES. ~~KYANA'S~~ KYANA'S ROOM. LATER

Kyana lounges in her room. ~~S~~ she is relaxed, not at all looking like a child ~~who's~~ whose father just died before her eyes. A knock on her door, and she changes, ~~;~~ tears start falling, ~~she makes herself~~ and she's smaller, weaker.

KYANA
(tearful whisper)
Come in.

Inka enters and rushes to bundle the young girl into her arms.

INKA
My dear child, I am so sorry.

Beat as she holds her.

INKA (~~CONT'D~~CONT'D)
First your mother and now this..

Commented [BT33]: Their closeness hasn't been established so this feels odd. Consider having an exchange between them in an earlier scene. Such a scene could not only deepen the characters and their relationship, but also act as foreshadowing if Inka notices something is different with Kyana.

Kyana nods, still tearful.

INKA (~~CONT'~~DCONT'D)
 I hope you know that your father was so proud of you, that everything he was doing, we were doing, was for you.
 (pregnant pause)
 And now we need you to do something for Tratulán.
 (beat)
 We need you to finish what your father started, ~~+~~. If the people see you, ready to fight... well, it will be the spark that sets our world aflame.

Kyana looks at Inka through tears.

INKA (~~CONT'~~DCONT'D)
 Your father always wanted you to rule. I am sorry the future came so soon.

Kyana lets out a little sob, but after a moment, l, nods.

EXT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES BALCONY. DAY.

Kyana now stands where her father once stood. ~~T~~he pict begins to roll. There is a long pause before Kyana begins, ~~+~~. Inka looks anxious, particularly when Kyana gives her a look.

KYANA
 You have been lied to. You have all been lied to, my father, l, most of all.
 (beat)
 These ~~heretics-rebels~~ would have you believe that the Imperium offers nothing, but they are the reason that we have survived, ~~+~~. They bring us food, and water, ~~+~~ and; all they ask for in return is a fair exchange.

~~On Inka's~~ Inka, shocked, ~~she goes to move~~moves towards Kyana, l, but guards (different from those in the previous scene) block her.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. HIVE CITY. DAY

We see the planetary militia from earlier, watching the pict screen in horror. ~~S~~uddenly, l, ADEPTUS ARBITES burst in, l, and the two sides take up arms, ~~+~~. It is clear that the Arbites are better trained and better equipped, ~~+~~. It is a massacre.

Commented [BT34]: Could we also note Vespurin not being there as a reason for Inka's anxiety? Seeding her fate.

KYANA (V.O.)

The God-Emperor has blessed us with His Grace and His patronage, and rather than praise him for his offerings, we have gone against him.

(beat)

We have committed a great betrayal. Heresy.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UNDERHIVE. CONTINUOUS.

The gangs ~~don't~~ don't like what ~~they're~~ they're hearing. ~~T,~~ they ~~didn't~~ didn't like the Governor, but they like the Imperium even less. The Underhive is always a powder keg, ~~i~~ it ~~doesn't~~ doesn't need much to explode, ~~.~~ Soon, people ~~start~~ are fighting ~~and,~~ rioting.

KYANA (V.O.)

Heresy will not be tolerated by the Imperium. But this heresy is that of a few, ~~t.~~ The rest of you are innocent.

We see a ganger shoot another ganger.

KYANA (V.O.)

And our benevolent God-Emperor does not punish the innocent.

EXT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES BALCONY. CONTINUOUS.

Back to Kyana, who looks to Inka, now held by the guards.

KYANA

In this time of abject betrayal, we need a leader who understands the gifts the Imperium offers, ~~who~~ and can guide us into a new time of enlightenment.

Tobias steps into view, ~~.~~ Inka looks ~~horrified~~ between the two, horrified and not understanding.

KYANA (~~CONT'~~ CONT'D)

Someone who can drive away the darkness of our ignorance. Lord Tobias, a trusted confidante of my father, a man with integrity, tried to warn him what this coup would bring, but my father had already been poisoned by lies and could not see the truth.

Commented [BT35]: Again, let's mention a gang by name.

Kyana steps away, and Tobias takes centre-stage, clearly enjoying the spotlight.

TOBIAS
Kyana, you are truly an exceptional servant of the God-Emperor. We will rout out the heretics at the centre of this plot. That is my promise to you all, starting with the head of the snake.

He looks directly at Inka and signals for the guards to bring her forward

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
A member of the Governor's council,
Lady Inka.

Inka is thrust to her knees, but she is defiant.

INKA
You will never win.

TOBIAS
(low, so the camera's
don't hear)
You speak as if there is a game to be played. There was no chance. You were naive to hope, stupid to act. I will ensure you understand the cost of defying the God-Emperor before your end.

He stands up and signals the guards again. They bring in Vespirin. It's clear she's been beaten, she does look and brokendefeated. The guards hold up Inka's head up so she is forced to watchcan see Tobias and the camera move toward Vespirin the camera moves along with him.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Death to the heretic.

He slices her throat.

INT. TRATULAN. HIVE WORLD. UPPER SPIRES CORRIDOR. DAY

Tobias and Kyana walk down the corridor, accompanied by guards, but at a distance so they can't be overheard.

TOBIAS
The High-Lords have my thanks for dispatching you so quickly.

KYANA

It is fortuitous that I arrived when I did, ~~t~~. The Emperor must will it, ~~r~~ for our journey to be so expedient.

They arrive at a door, ~~r~~ in a corridor that doesn't look like it gets a lot of foot~~d~~ traffic. Tobias takes a key from his pocket and opens the door to reveal ORIGINAL KYANA, wearing the same outfit as we saw in the opener but dirtier, ~~r, s~~. She looks like ~~she's~~ she's barely been fed ~~and when she sees FAKE KYANA, she cowers, backing, and when she sees FAKE KYANA, she cowers and backs~~ further into the cell. Fake Kyana steps forward confidently.

FAKE KYANA

Your father is dead, ~~r~~ ~~H~~he committed treason against the Emperor ~~and~~ ~~and he~~ has paid the price, but you ~~needn't~~ ~~needn't~~ have to.

(beat)

The Emperor always ~~has need of~~ ~~needs~~ good soldiers, ~~y~~. You will be sent to the Schola Progenium, ~~they will correct any ill-advised ideas your father may have instilled in you, and yand they will correct any ill-advised ideas your father may have instilled in you.~~ You will serve the Imperium. If you do not, you will die. ~~You~~ Do you understand?

Original Kyana swallows and nods. Fake Kyana stands and leaves.

EPILOGUE.

INT. CULEXUS TEMPLE. LOCATION UNKNOWN.

Fake Kyana disembarks a ship and is met by several robed figures.

KYANA

Mission successful. Rebellion quashed.

The central hooded figure nods and presents an ORNATE BOX to Fake Kyana, ~~s~~. She smiles and opens it. Once she sees ~~what's~~ what's inside, she kneels and hangs her head, presenting the back of her neck to the figure. We hear the other figures begin to murmur, almost sounding like a prayer.

The central robed figure removes an INJECTOR from the boxes and hands it to another figure. They stab the needle into Fake ~~Kyana's~~ Kyana's exposed neck, injecting the liquid into her, then step back.

There is a pause as Fake Kyana looks up~~s~~. She grits her teeth in agony~~r~~ as we zoom into her eyes, which begin to change.~~r~~ ~~whilst~~ While we focus on them, we hear the sounds of bones breaking, but through what sounds like a~~n~~ horrific ordeal, Fake Kyana says nothing.

When the camera pulls back, Fake Kyana is gone~~r~~, and a Culexus assassin stands in her stead.

END.

Commented [BT36]: Check. Culexus assassins hunt psykers. Callidus assassins change their appearance to get close to targets.