

**G E A R S   O F   W A R**

BY

STUART BEATTIE

## GEARS OF WAR

by Stuart Beattie

Planet Sera.

The Battle of Aspho Fields.

The last battle of the Pendulum Wars.

We meet Sergeant MARCUS FENIX and Corporal DOM SANTIAGO riding pensively in the back of a Raven, one of hundreds ferrying in gears to assault the enemy headquarters.

The Coalition of Ordered Governments could have simply burned the fortress to the ground with their orbital satellites, but a body count is needed for the big final COG victory and sat-burns have a way of disintegrating human flesh...

...this weighs on Dom's mind as enemy missiles start pounding the Ravens. Several choppers go down in flames. Marcus keeps his eyes and his squad on the target.

The Ravens touch down and the gears pile out into an insane hail of rocket and gunfire. Most Ravens never even back it back up.

This is madness. Bodies are ripped apart. Wounded soldiers scream for their mothers. A grenade annihilates an embedded media crew. Nobody knows where he or she's supposed to be.

We find CAPTAIN HOFFMAN bullying gears to take up the fight, but the soldiers are scared and fear this whole mission is suicide. With the attack dangerously stalled, Marcus rounds up a small crew of gears and they begin to work their way forward towards the enemy bunker, defying Hoffman's orders to wait for back-up. Hoffman is livid, but Marcus' defiance of his authority is nothing new.

The fighting is ferocious. Marcus and Dom pull along the less experienced troops with them. One of them wants to turn and run, but Marcus forces him to stay in his position. Gears never abandon their fellow men.

Once the gears reach the bunker, the fighting goes hand to hand. Face to face. *Chainsaw to chainsaw.*

Marcus is cold and emotionless. A professional soldier doing whatever is necessary to get the job done. He feels nothing, using corpses of other gears as cover without hesitation...

...as they finally break through the enemy's last defences.

Marcus busts down the bunker door where the ENEMY LEADER is hiding. But the man puts a bullet through his brain before Marcus and Dom can grab him. It's a sad and brutal ending to a sad and brutal battle.

The only positive thing about it: *after 79 years, peace will finally come to Sera.*

DISSOLVE TO:

Ephyra. A beautiful city in Sera.

An enormous victory parade in progress.

Citizens flock the streets and hang out of building windows to cheer their triumphant gears. We see Dom receive a medal for his part in the Battle of Aspho Fields. Embarrassingly for Hoffman, Marcus has not shown up to receive his...

...because that's not why Marcus fought all these years. And right now, all he wants is to be left alone in a quiet bar where he can get drunk.

An OLD MAN watches Marcus and eventually joins him. Marcus wants nothing to do with the old man who simply congratulates the young war hero and leaves.

As the old man goes, Dom enters with his wife, MARIA, and several other vets who are with their women. The parade is over and the party has begun (this is a gears bar). We see that Dom really loves his wife. She's everything to him.

Dom makes a bet with Marcus over the outcome of a thrashball game on the bar monitor. We see Number 83, Augustus "The Cole Train" Cole score and taunt his opponents. Marcus wins twenty dollars. Dom promises to pay him back later.

Dom tells Marcus that he thought he saw Marcus' father just leaving. Marcus just replies, "I have no father."

CUT TO:

We follow the old man as he returns to the East Barricade Academy. He is ADAM FENIX and he is the headmaster here as well as a scientist of some reknown.

The labs are mostly empty. People are out celebrating the end of the wars and the beginning of peace talks. Adam grumbles to an assistant that perhaps now with the war over, the COG will finally allow him to explore the Hollow. But, as the assistant points out, exploration beyond mining zones has always been strictly forbidden...

...as the assistant walks off, Adam mutters under his breath, "Not always." He taps into a COG motion camera in the Lethia Imulsion mine outside town. Watching the workers come and go, shift change.

CUT TO:

We follow a small crew of MINERS starting their shift. They pass by Adam's camera view and take an elevator further down to their current digging site.

Using a drill machine, they begin to dig into a wall of rock when all of a sudden it collapses, revealing something on the other side that makes all of them go still.

Before one of them can say, "What the fuck...

...his head is blown clean off his shoulders.

CUT TO:

Marcus drives Dom and Maria back to their home in their truck. They're too drunk and horny to get behind a wheel themselves. Hopefully, the kids are already asleep...

...however, as they arrive, Dom's kids come running out of the house to see him -- effectively killing his chances of having sex tonight.

Marcus watches Dom and Maria put their children to bed, abating one child's fear of the boogeymen who come up from the ground and snatch people. Dom insists that they're just stories made up to scare kids.

Dom sees Marcus out, telling him to find a good woman and settle down now that the war's over. Marcus promises to start making calls to girls he knows first thing tomorrow. Dom suggests he calls girls he *doesn't* know...

...apparently, Marcus has never ended a relationship well.

CUT TO:

But as soon as Marcus is alone again, we realize that's not what's on his mind. He walks through the city of Ephyra...

...electronic billboards spout the benefits of Imulsion, a cheaper, cleaner fuel. COG insignias are everywhere. COG motion security cameras on the street follow Marcus from block to block, but he routinely ignores them.

CUT TO:

Marcus reaches a magnificent house by a lake. He punches the code on the gate and enters the expansive grounds, staring up at a light in the windows. He almost goes inside. Instead, he hurls his empty beer bottle against the window and walks back out the gate.

A moment later, we spot Adam peering out the window. He sees nobody, only the gate slowly swinging shut. A sad look sinks onto his face...

...he returns to what he's doing, which is carrying his dinner on a tray through his huge empty house, down several back stairways to the basement cellar. He opens a hidden door to reveal a secret lab filled with computers and exploratory robots (geobots). Partial maps of the Hollow fill the walls.

We realize that Adam has been secretly exploring the Hollow for years. A live feed is coming in from his geobot that is ever-so-slowly mapping every tunnel and crevice...

...all of a sudden, Adam spots something. He stops the geobot and zooms in on a rock ledge, leaning into the monitor to get a better look.

The image is grainy, the geobot deep in the Hollow. But there seems to be the remains of some human bones. *Ripped apart and broken.* Adam stares at the bones and marks the location.

CUT TO:

Marcus returns to his barracks at the vast Jacinto military complex which is built on a huge solid granite mesa rising up next to Ephyra. He seems out of place, even here in his own "home". Marcus is a warrior, civilian life is not for him...

...he flicks through different news services from all around the globe. The message is the same all over Sera: World Peace is finally here. Marcus mutters under his breath, "Shit."

CUT TO:

The next day, Adam has an official meeting with leaders of the COG in the House of Sovereigns in the center of Ephyra.

Careful not to reveal his secret, Adam asks them to finally send exploration teams into the Hollow. He suspects there's something down there other than Imulsion. Something that is not friendly and that needs to be studied.

But the COG leaders are skeptical. Humans have lived on Sera for five hundred years without ever encountering any hostile organisms. Adam argues that five hundred years is a speck in the grand span of Time.

The COG turns down his request and privately suggest that he enjoy the coming peace and prosperity as the rest of them are. Adam lashes out, claiming that the COG are bound to get rich off the Imulsion-laden countries they now occupy.

Before the COG leaders can respond, a messenger enters to tell them that some kind of disturbance has broken out at the Lethia Imulsion mine. Adam is promptly dismissed.

CUT TO:

Adam hurries into class late for his lecture at the East Barricade Academy. The students are already waiting. They stand as he rushes in. A prototype of the Hammer of Dawn is sitting on the front desk.

Adam begins to instruct the students on the hammer, the first hand held weapon with the ability to target orbital satellite beams. A student up the back scoffs loudly, "Could have done with that, like *before* the wars ended."

Of course, it's Marcus. He's quietly snuck into his father's class. Though neither man reveals their filial bond, both of them snipe at each other until finally Marcus breaks off and walks out. Adam watches him go.

CUT TO:

Adam finds Marcus waiting for him outside the classroom after the lecture is over. We begin to learn how Adam's wife walked out when Marcus was just a boy. And how Adam then effectively abandoned his only child in favor of his work.

Adam had once said that he would explain everything to Marcus once the Pendulum Wars were over. Well, Marcus fought the war and now it's over and all Adam could manage in that bar was a paltry: "Congratulations, soldier".

We see it's difficult for Adam to talk about this. He never actually thought the Pendulum Wars would end. He asks Marcus to leave the military and join him in his work...

...only through years of exploring the Hollow together can Marcus truly understand why Adam was such a poor father.

Before Marcus can respond, Adam gets paged by the COG. They want him to report to the Command Center at Jacinto ASAP. He obviously wants to stay and talk things over with his son, but duty calls him away.

Marcus storms off, vowing never to speak to him again.

CUT TO:

Adam goes to Jacinto and reports to the COG leaders who are gathered in the Command Center, a "mission control" station from which all top secret military matters are directed.

We notice a young attractive Lieutenant Colonel. This is ANYA STROUD. She and Adam know each other. She asks if Adam knows how Marcus is doing. Adam replies, "Same as always."

The COG leaders ask him what he knows about the Hollow and show him shakey footage from the Lethia Imulsion mine where workers are scrambling to collapse shafts behind them and disable the elevators.

There are glimpses of humanoid creatures of some kind. There are bursts of machine gun fire. There is an unknown language spoken and shouted. Adam gazes at the footage, a trickle of fear running down his spine.

CUT TO:

Meanwhile, Marcus joins Dom and his family for a picnic in a picturesque city park. The wars seem like a lifetime ago. Dom is leaving the military to get a job working for Maria's dad in an office in Ephyra.

Marcus isn't sure what he's going to do. Teach new recruits how to do a job they know they'll never have to do?

Dom asks him about his father and he just offers his friend one piece of advice: be there for your children, no matter what. Dom takes this to heart and the two men share a toast to family and peace...

*...all of a sudden, the earth starts trembling.*

Marcus is the first to notice it. Tremors in a cup of tea sitting on a nearby table. The trembling builds, like an earthquake, which is exactly what everyone thinks it is.

Dom and Marcus rush to Maria and the kids. Fortunately, they're in a large open park which is the best kind of place to be during an earthquake...

*...only this isn't that. It is, in fact, the simultaneous tunneling of hundreds of emergence holes all over the city.*

Cars and trees sink into the ground. It's as if the very earth is sucking people and other things underneath.

Dom's children disappear in an emergence hole that devours playground equipment. Dom's hysterical, running for them.

But now the LOCUST HORDE burst out of the emergence holes.

DRONES lead the attack, firing their Hammerbursts into the crowds of people. DRONE GRENADIERS are right behind, firing.

This picturesque setting instantly turns to hell. Marcus and Dom are unarmed, like everyone else. They run and duck. Dom turns his attention to protecting his wife, Maria.

Marcus turns his attention to getting a weapon. What follows is sheer adrenaline-pumping chaos...

...we see Marcus make the first kill, luring a Drone and then beating it senseless. Taking the creature's Hammerburst and figuring out how to use it.

Meanwhile, DRONE SNIPERS take to the building rooftops and unleash more gunfire down on the panicked citizens of Sera.

One of the snipers strikes Maria...

...they've got to get her to a hospital.

CUT TO:

Meanwhile, Adam watches in horror from the Command Center in the Jacinto military complex as battle stations are sounded.

Adam gets forgotten in all the confusion as he gets his first good look at Locust warriors on the television monitors. "God help us..."

Immediately, his thoughts go to Marcus.

CUT TO:

Back in the city, Marcus helps clear the way as Dom carries Maria. They get cut off by the sudden emergence of a gigantic CORPSE which is armed with a number of death-dealing claws and -- as Marcus quickly finds out -- a bulletproof shell...

...barely escaping this beast, Marcus and Dom finally reach a nearby hospital which is under siege itself with hundreds of patients flooding the different levels.

Marcus and Dom know how to patch Maria up, but they're too late. Maria succumbs to her wounds and Dom cries over her dead body. He's lost his entire family in the last twenty minutes and he'll never be the same again.

Marcus is haunted by this, but finally is able to pull his friend away. Dragging him outside. *They've got work to do.*

CUT TO:

Marcus and Dom fight their way back to Jacinto and push through the mass of terrified civilians clamoring at the gates for protection.

We notice AUGUST COLE showing up as a volunteer, ready to inflict some pain. Another volunteer, BAIRD, takes an instant dislike to him...

...the COG guards allow only men like these to enter.

CUT TO:

In the Command Center, news reports are cascading in about similar eruptions all over the planet. Nobody knows who they are or what they want...other than the death of every man, woman, and child on this planet. They are still pouring out of their emergence holes. Adam likens them to "the biblical plague of locusts". The name sticks...

...the Locust Horde is now the enemy of the COG and all other human governments. *All of humanity is once again at war.*

CUT TO:

And now the movie kicks into high gear. We watch the massive COG response to this invasion, the shock and awe of this time and place.

Sleek COG fighters and bombers take to the skies, battling endless waves of REAVERS. Bitter dogfights ignite the skies.

Gigantic hidden SEEDERS launch NEMACYST ambushes, combining with the Reavers, soon overwhelming the small COG fighters.

THERON GUARDS ride on the back of more Reavers to take out COG artillery positions with their deadly torque bows.

Finally, we see huge BRUMAKS trample through COG armor and shoot down COG missiles. Nothing can stop these creatures.

Anya directs satellite burns from her station.

Though these prove effective at first, Reavers begin inking the sky, blotting out direct line of sight. The satellites are now useless until the ink eventually dissipates...

...with no sat-cover, the COG ground units are vulnerable.

Adam's watching all of this carefully, but keeps an extra close eye on the progress of Marcus' unit which is now being dispatched...

CUT TO:

...down in Ephyra, Marcus and Dom join the assault in tanks which deploy them against thousands of amassing Drones.

BOOMERS appear to take on the COG tanks while the gears battle through the city streets. The once beautiful Ephyra quickly becomes a hulking ruin.

Dom is driven by rage and almost gets himself killed because of it, but Marcus is able to reign him back just in time and save his life.

We notice Captain Hoffman directing his troops, taking down several Drones himself. He is supremely pissed off, calling the creatures "grubs".

The street battle is devastating for both sides. Several new gears crumple with fear. The Locust Horde takes no prisoners and delivers no mercy.

It's brutal warfare. Kill or be killed.

We see Marcus coldly use his chainsaw bayonet on a Drone and kick its mangled body over. The blood dripping off his face.

Through sheer guts and determination, Marcus and Dom push through the Locust lines. Just as it appears that the COG ground units have miraculously retaken this part of the city, a furious pair of Corpzers appear and tear most of the gears to shreds. Colonel Hoffman orders a retreat, but Marcus and Dom can't get to the Ravens in time...

...the two men are now trapped alone in a city swarming with angry Locust.

CUT TO:

By the end of the day, the COG air force has been effectively wiped out. As has most of its armor units and a good share of infantry. Billions have been killed all over the world.

Adam realizes that Jacinto has been spared because of his solid granite base. The Locust can't tunnel through it.

The COG leaders order the gates open and begin calls for all survivors to retreat to the complex within the next twenty-four hours...

...what the COG is planning is unclear, but Adam doesn't like the sound of this. We see that he's genuinely worried about his son who is still stuck out there somewhere, unable to get back.

CUT TO:

Marcus and Dom weave their way back through the city towards Jacinto but are suddenly discovered by the Locust just before sundown. They run. An unstoppable swarm of Drones and Boomers follow them.

No way they can outrun these things forever.

They decide to make a stand, go down fighting. Cutting down more than their fair share of creatures when their position is finally overrun.

But then, just as they're about to get butchered, the sun dips below the horizon and the Locust Horde mysteriously backs off and disappears into their subterranean warrens.

Marcus and Dom are confused, shocked to be alive.

Citizen survivors begin poking their heads up everywhere. Are they gone? Is it over? And then, something shoots up into the pink skies...

...a dark streak of wings. The sound of a thousand bat-like creatures, baying for blood.

Marcus hasn't got a good feeling about this. They watch the streak twist high in the sky, then nose dive towards their street, enveloping several survivors, frozen on their feet.

Their horrific death screams trigger mass panic. Everybody runs from the lethal KRYLL, but few escape -- these things are like flying piranhas.

Marcus and Dom drop a scant few of them with their Lancers, but there are thousands of these things. They run again...

...timing their ducks as the Kryll swoop over them.

The single twisting streak branches out into dozens of smaller streaks. The Kryll smash through windows and break down doors, leaving trails of blood in their wake...

...it seems impossible that anyone could survive this.

Marcus realizes these things came when the sun left. And he notices that they're avoiding pools of light. People are only getting killed in the shadows.

He finds a working street light, huddling under its shelter with Dom, and the Kryll breaks off their attacks on the pair.

Marcus and Dom call out for other survivors they can see, beckoning them into their light. *Some make it. Some don't.*

A small group of survivors band together with Marcus and Dom, sheltered closely in the flickering street light, praying that it doesn't go out...

...the Kryll also attack Jacinto, shredding anybody who's not standing in direct light. Refugees. Guards. Nobody's spared.

DISSOLVE TO:

Daylight's returning, dawn only moments away. Marcus keeps his eyes on the streaks of Kryll which are still whooshing through the air high above. Waiting until they disappear back into their emergence holes just as the sun reappears.

The moment they're gone, Marcus and Dom get the survivors moving. Who knows how long before the Locust return? Besides, they've got orders to get back to Jacinto before the end of the day...

...they lead the survivors through the deserted, war torn streets. All they see are the bodies of gears, civilians, and even Locust stripped to the bone by the deadly Kryll.

CUT TO:

But as the sun rises, the Locust Horde returns. And with them comes a new figure. Clearly, he's of some importance. Larger than the other drones. And more terrifying. This is GENERAL RAAM. He looks around and surveys the destruction, finding a human skull on the ground...

...he picks it up, studying the features a moment before casually crushing it in one hand and tossing the fragments.

Raam barks an order to his commanders and they all move out.

CUT TO:

Marcus and Dom huddle in some cover with their growing band of survivors. Boomers and Brumaks patrol the streets, searching for survivors who are all summarily executed.

Both men know that the COG has been brought to its knees. The survivors wonder what the COG leaders will do. Marcus knows that they just spent decades fighting for the territory they'd just won.

No way they're going to just give it all up now...

...and the countdown is ticking. The COG urging all survivors to Jacinto before the appointed hour, but without saying why.

CUT TO:

Adam now figures out the COG plan. They're going to scorch the earth with their satellites and deny the Locust the territory they've taken. Adam stands up to the COG leaders, reminding them of the millions of humans they'll kill along with the Locust.

But the COG has made its decision. They've given their people twenty-four hours...which are now almost up. Anya reluctantly begins the task of aligning the satellites above Sera.

CUT TO:

Time's run out for Marcus and Dom. And they know it. They find an abandoned junker and load the survivors aboard.

Starting the engines alerts the Locust. Drones shoot at them from both sides. General Raam notices the junker pass in the distance and orders a squadron of Reavers after it.

A Brumak also joins the chase. Marcus drives wildly while Dom fires, going through all of their ammunition...

...and now Anya gets the official order to scorch Sera. The COG leaders broadcast their final warning to their citizens, apologizing for what they're about to do. The COG appreciates their sacrifice and vows to continue this fight to the end.

And now, chemical fire rains down from the skies.

We see Sera from space as dozens of tiny specks light up in orbit and blast particle beams down at the planet surface.

The powerful weapons wreak divine-like havoc upon the cities of Sera. Locusts and humans burn together in the holocaust, a horrible solution.

General Raam flinches, but doesn't get killed by the blasts.

Marcus dodges and weaves, the Brumak zapped behind him. Dom takes down the last of the Reavers as the gates of Jacinto open before them. More sat-burns ignite the ground at their heels as they escape into the complex grounds. Adam sees his son pile out of the junker and sighs with sobered relief...

...as more and more beams lay waste to this beautiful planet.

FADE TO BLACK.

*Ten years later...*

Ten years of living hell. Jacinto is now a massive fortified garrison. The front gates re-inforced like the walls of Troy.

Charred evidence of numerous failed attacks lies scattered outside the walls. A COG armored transport approaches the gates, a patrol coming home. The driver gives the clearance code, but just before the gates open...

...we see Marcus halt them. Marcus has aged little, though there is now a thin scar down the right side of his face.

He studies the driver on his monitor. Something wrong. Marcus knows the soldier and asks some routine questions. Suddenly, the soldier screams a warning and a sharp blade pokes out through his chest.

Drones pour out of the transport. Marcus orders the gunners around the gate to open fire. The Drones have little chance.

Marcus opens the gate and removes the hijacked soldier who apologizes with his last breath. Marcus forgives him as he dies. He notices the light fading and orders the UVs powered up. Gears drive the transport inside and close the gates...

...several miles away, we see General Raam watching through hi-powered scopes. He notices Marcus who pauses and turns, almost as if he knows he's being watched. Then he heads into the human fortress.

CUT TO:

Marcus finishes his gate duty and links up with Dom. They walk through the complex which has now become a city of refugees. Life has returned as best it can in here.

We see police break up a scuffle. An open market sells food and scrap. Children beg for money. Women sell their bodies.

Dom still misses his family. It would've been his youngest child's fourteenth birthday today. He wonders what happened to them. Dom asks Marcus if he's ever going to patch things up with his father. He knows first hand that deep down, all fathers love their sons.

A call of alarm in one of the guard towers sends chills through everyone. *The Kryll are coming towards Jacinto.*

Marcus and Dom and every other gear in sight readies their Lancers as the guard towers start repelling the Kryll with bursts from their UV turrets. One or two make it past, but get caught in floodlights.

Marcus drops them with a burst from his Lancer. He and Dom turn as refugees race to claim the scrawny Kryll for dinner.

CUT TO:

Adam has taken over a back room in the Command Center complex and converted it into a makeshift research facility. We see biological sketches of Drones and all other Locust creatures on the walls...

...for all Adam and his team have learned about their enemy, they still have several big unanswered questions out there:

What do they want?  
 Why attack us now?  
 How do we stop them?

Adam still desperately wants to explore the Hollow, certain that the answers are down there. But all the entry points are watched by Locust and the COG won't risk losing more gears in an attempt capture and hold one.

Privately, Adam longs to get back to his secret lab where his computers are still be mapping the Hollow. He uploads the new data every morning onto a handheld mapping device...

...in the last ten years, Adam's geobot has mapped a lot.

CUT TO:

Meanwhile, Marcus takes a well-earned shower in the military barracks, allowing his mind to drift to earlier times. His mother. His father. The house by the lake.

And then the change. His mother gone, his father yelling into the phone. Young Marcus knocking on the door to his lab only to hear Adam tell him to go away...

...all of a sudden, Marcus hears a dog barking. Snapping him out of his memories. These dogs have been trained to detect tremors in the earth.

Marcus lunges out of the shower and grabs his Lancer which is never far away. Training it on the floor tiles which split and crack, revealing a wide open fissure. *An emergence hole inside Jacinto?*

The gears in here aren't taking any chances. Marcus notices he's kneeling next to another gear who's also naked from a shower, aiming his Lancer. Augustus Cole, now a seasoned vet.

Both men trade an awkward look. Then Marcus moves over to the fissure. No Locust climbing out. The fissure drops deep into the ground. No grub hole here. Just Mother Nature at work.

Cole spits into the fissure, they don't hear it hit.

CUT TO:

Hoffman, now a Colonel, is in charge of sealing the fissure.

Marcus and some others watch, but a halt order is suddenly given. Adam appears, holding official COG papers that grant him full access to the fissure.

Ten years of being on the defensive have convinced the COG leaders to finally listen to Adam and take advantage of this opportunity to potentially explore the Hollow and perhaps find out more about the Locust Horde...

...the decision to keep the fissure open pleases nobody as it leaves the whole of Jacinto vulnerable to a Locust attack.

Adam's orders are to take a small force of gears with him into the Hollow. Hoffman asks for volunteers and after some obvious hesitation, Marcus steps forward. Dom follows suit along with some others.

Adam thanks them, ending with an anxious look at his son. The first time they've seen each other in years. Marcus leaves to gear up.

CUT TO:

Marcus rapels into the fissure through the solid granite. It opens up into the Hollow. He drops to the ground and pans his Lancer about. Thankfully, no Locust here.

The other gears rapel down after him, followed by Adam and his assistants. Hoffman remains ready to seal the fissure if it's discovered...

*...whether or not Adam's team has made it back by then.*

Marcus asks his father which way he wants to go. Discreetly using his handheld mapping device, Adam directs the team away from the fissure.

CUT TO:

As the team slowly makes its way through the twisting, Imulsion-lit caverns, we get our first good look at the Hollow. Another world entirely, vast and magnificent.

The gears are careful, knowing the Locust are down here...

...in one cavern, they notice thousands of sleeping Kryll on the ceilings. The floor covered with Kryll shit beneath. They pass by as quietly as possible. Some of the Kryll flutter and stir, but none awake.

CUT TO:

Marcus watches his father closely, noticing that he's not so much exploring the Hollow as he is heading somewhere. Almost as if he's been here before.

When Marcus spots Adam's mapping device, he stops the team and demands some answers from his secretive father...

...after some prodding, Adam reveals that years ago, before Emergence Day, an exploratory team from the East Barricade Academy was allowed by the COG to go into the Hollow. They journeyed way past the mining limits, past communications boundaries, and disappeared.

Adam illegally sent a geobot to look for them and thinks it found their remains. He's heading for that spot, hoping there might still be useful information on them.

Marcus realizes this is the thing that's obsessed Adam for so long. This is what took him away from his son. This is why Marcus hates him.

He orders the patrol to move on, but then immediately makes everyone go quiet. Sensing something around the corner...

...it's a BESERKER. A female Drone. Blind. Immense. Deadly.

The team goes still, hoping she'll pass by. But one of the gears makes a small sound. She picks up their scent and charges, ripping the gear into pieces.

The others dart out of the way and now she senses their movements. Bullets have no effect on her, other than to lead her to another victim. In moments, the Beserker and wiped out half the team.

She knocks down Dom and goes to finish him off, but Marcus draws her away with the sound of his chainsaw. He instructs the other gears to do likewise, "blinding" the Beserker with noise from every direction.

She charges Marcus, he rolls out of the way just in time. She smashes into a wall of rock right behind him, right through it, in fact...

...to reveal an enormous cavern that seems to be a staging area for Locust attacks. The huge place is crawling with Drones and Boomers and Theron Guards.

General Raam is here, too. They all see the Beserker and the humans on the other side of the wall. Marcus curses and opens fire on the Locust Horde which now darts after them.

CUT TO:

The Berserker leads the way, chasing the team. Marcus and the other gears hold them off as best they can while they blindly follow Adam through various tunnels and canyons.

Finally, they emerge in an underground Imulsion lake. Marcus manages to draw the Berserker off the edge and into the Imulsion which, like quicksand, drags the creature under...

...not much time to celebrate because Drones are hot on the Berserker's heels. But Adam has found something that makes him freeze. *The pile of human remains*. East Barricade insignias on their decades old tattered uniforms.

Adam is close to tears, informing Marcus that he's looking at his mother. She's the one who led the team. This is why Adam has been so obsessed with exploring the Hollow...

...he's just a husband looking for his wife.

It's all too much for Marcus to take in right now -- they're being overrun. He grabs Adam who manages to snatch his wife's data recorder from the remains.

They retreat with Dom and some other gears back towards the fissure. Dom causes a rockslide, buying them some time.

Marcus tries awkwardly to comfort his shaken father who clutches the data recorder close to his chest, hoping it still works. He tells Marcus that the COG leaders swore him to absolute secrecy and that's why he could never tell Marcus the truth about his mother.

A hideous shriek sends shivers through their spines.

WRETCHES. The spidery creatures clamber through the small holes in the rockslide and gallop towards the gears. They take off running and firing behind them. Several gears fall, the wretches exploding when they die...

...in the confusion, Adam gets separated from the group and thrown onto a piece of rock that drifts off over the lake of Imulsion. Unable to control it.

Marcus reaches for him, almost falling into the Imulsion himself. He can only watch his father drift apart, cut off.

General Raam notices this separation. He recognizes Marcus from before and zooms his scopes in on Adam, recognizing the East Barricade Academy insignia on his jacket.

Raam directs a squad of Drones to pursue the scientist.

CUT TO:

Only Dom and Marcus are left alive by the time they reach the fissure. Marcus holds off the Wretches as Dom climbs up. Dom leaves his Gnasher behind and when Marcus runs out of Lancer ammo, he switches to Dom's shotgun.

The Wretches combust under the withering fire. Marcus seems driven by a dark rage, certain that his father's dead. When the shotgun runs out, Marcus draws his pistol.

Moments before he's overwhelmed, Dom pulls him out...

...but the Wretches follow, leaping up into the fissure before Colonel Hoffman can close it. Gears begin to shoot down at the oncoming Wretches against Marcus' advice.

The Wretches explode and take out the gears. Still coming, wave after wave of them. Obliterating almost everyone in the shower stalls. Clearing the way for Drones and Boomers. *The Jacinto military complex has just been breached.*

CUT TO:

Meanwhile, Adam reaches the far side of the Imulsion lake and scrambles onto solid ground. Using his mapping device, Adam begins to work his way back towards the surface...

CUT TO:

...where humanity is in the fight of its life. Marcus and Dom survive the initial onslaught and join the ranks of gears and civilians struggling to stem the Locust threat.

More and more Drones pile out of the fissure, but it's the exploding Wretches that do the most damage. An unstoppable flood of suicide bombers.

On the Command Center monitors, Anya spots dozens of huge Brumaks approaching the front gates. She attacks them with sat-burns, ripping into them. Suddenly, a pack of Wretches bursts through the doors and explodes throughout the room.

Anya's wounded, but alive. However, the sat-burn controls are now dead. Drones now overwhelm the guards at the front gates and the surviving Brumaks charge in while Reavers fly above.

Now the humans are battling on two fronts. Marcus and Dom give it all they've got, repelling the invaders along with the other gears.

We see Cole unleashing hell. Baird fights at his side. Gears are slain everywhere. Hoffman gives the order to fall back.

CUT TO:

Adam finally climbs out an old emergence hole on the East Barricade Academy campus. The place is in ruins, like everywhere else in Ephyra.

With the Drones still pursuing him, Adam hurries upstairs to his old lab and feeds his wife's data recorder into the only working computer terminal.

His heart breaks when he sees her on the screen...

...she's terrified, about to die. She tells him how her team ran into these creatures, how her team's all gone save her, how they're coming for her next, she only has a few moments.

She knows the COG will want to deny her team's disappearance and ignore what's under the surface. She asks Adam not to let them get away with that and mostly, to tell Marcus what she did and how she died. She tells Adam to love their son for both of them. And then she screams and the image snows.

Adam stares at the blank screen, an emotional wreck. There's a pounding at the door. The Drones have tracked him down.

CUT TO:

Back with Marcus and Dom, barricaded behind closed doors (a reverse of the opening battle when they were the ones kicking down the doors) in the Command Center complex with Anya...

*...this is their Alamo, their last stand.*

A call comes in over Marcus' headset. It's Adam. Marcus is shocked that his father's still alive and actually in the East Barricade Academy, but he hasn't got time to talk.

Adam continues anyway, apologizing for not being there when Marcus was a child. He realizes now that he was wrong and selfish, absorbed in his own grief. He was wrong to let the COG cover-up the disappearance of his wife and her team. He was wrong about a lot of things...

...as he hangs up, Marcus hears the lab doors breaking down.

Marcus weighs what to do. The surviving humans are secure for now in the Command Center complex. With no way in, the Locust can only wait them out. Knowing that his father's in mortal jeopardy, Marcus makes the decision to go rescue him.

Colonel Hoffman tries to stop him, but Marcus slugs him. Dom helps Marcus escape the Command Center, wanting to go with him. But Marcus doesn't want to get his friend in trouble.

Anya watches Marcus as he leaves, a silent look between them.

And then he scuttles out an air duct, emerging elsewhere in the Locust-strewn grounds. Marcus fights his way through the Horde and climbs into a military transport.

General Raam sees him escape out the gates and he follows.

CUT TO:

Reavers chase Marcus away from Jacinto, finally destroying his transport. Marcus escapes into the ruins of Ephyra and works his way towards the East Barricade Academy.

He encounters pockets of Locust along the way, dealing with them as fast as he can. And now, to add to his problems, the sunsets and the Kryll wake up. Marcus sticks to pockets of light, darting through shadows, even using the Kryll to his advantage when getting past pockets of Locust.

CUT TO:

Lights burn over Jacinto, keeping the Kryll at bay while the Locust Horde tries to break through into the Command Center complex. Dom and the other gears put up a valiant defence, but now it's only a matter of time before the enemy crashes through and wipes out the last of the humans.

CUT TO:

Marcus finally reaches the East Barricade Academy now and saves his father from the Drones just in time. Adam's both shocked and touched that Marcus abandoned his post to rescue him. He'll face a COG court martial, maybe even execution.

But Marcus isn't worried about that. Besides, there won't even be a COG anymore if they don't do something soon. When Marcus tells Adam that the equipment to fire the satellites is destroyed, Adam remembers the Hammer of Dawn prototype in the weapons lab...

...however, just now, General Raam enters, cutting them off from the weapons lab. Marcus and Raam go at each other, head to head. A fierce, angry battle.

Raam is ten times stronger, but Marcus has ten times the attitude. He gives as good as he gets, but in the end, he just can't stand up to Raam's might.

Just when Raam's about to kill Marcus...

...Adam steps in and severely wounds the general.

Raam furiously attacks Adam in front of Marcus and retreats down an emergence hole, wounded. More Drones enter now...

...and Marcus has to fight them off while grabbing the Hammer of Dawn and climbing out onto the roof of the Academy.

From here he can see the swarms of Locust on Jacinto. He triggers the weapon, directing particle beams down onto the Locust Horde just before they can breach the Command Center.

The Locust retreat from Jacinto, Dom and the other gears securing the perimeter once more. Colonel Hoffman seals the fissure permanently.

Marcus returns to the labs and collapses with his father in his arms. Adam smiles proudly up at his son, then dies.

DISSOLVE TO:

Marcus' trial in the House of Sovereigns. Colonel Hoffman's unwillingness to forgive Marcus leads to a sentence of forty years in Jacinto Maximum Security...

...the sentence is a harsh one. But Marcus doesn't seem to hear it. He's found some shred of inner peace at last. Dom sees Marcus off, promising to get him out one day.

As Marcus is led off into his prison cell, we see General Raam quietly studying the Jacinto complex. Not giving up.

Not ever giving up.

THE END