

He glances back at the four-in-mud, shadows within shadows, watching without movement only their slow, careful eating.

TURLEY

(to Mace)

First watch.

Mace nods as the others settle down into watchful alert positions. A couple of lasers sweep the camp and beyond in regular pulses.

Mace snuggles down into his own hide, watchful, rifle at the ready, butt to the ground, his hand on the pistol grip. He makes sure the rifle's dead man's handle hair trigger is primed.

Later.

The camp is silent, a brief pulse of the lasers. The flicker of human eyes staring out of their hides, the faint gleam of starlight off weapons. Shadows off shadowed bodies.

The Predator is looking down at the camp directly below him. He drops silently to the ground in a blind spot for the lasers.

He pauses. Waiting. The current man on watch, Skyler, is looking the other way as the Predator takes slow, careful steps across the ground.

He pauses, standing over and looking down at one archer, barely visible through the Predator's vision. He leans closer to study the sleeping man.

Valenta's eyes flicker open. Squinting she slowly tracks her eyes around the camp. Nothing unusual, until she sees a faint movement.

The Predator picks up the archer's bow. Lifting it very slowly, turning it around, inspecting it.

Valenta is staring at the bow, floating in the air several feet away as it is turned around. Slowly she reaches a hand out to touch Perez, contacting Perez's hand already reaching for her. They sense each other, tensing.

Their fingers tap code to each other against their wrists.

Valenta reaches for a pull cord laid on the ground beside her as the bow is lowered.

The Predator leans closer, almost touching down on the archer, his blades sliding out from his forearm.

Valenta wraps her fingers around the pull cord.

The Predator slides the blades quickly into the archer's belly, gutting his chest almost silently. A final sigh from the archer.

Valenta's hand squeezes the cord, a tug that trips alarms.

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!

The Predator leaps, Valenta, squeezes Perez's arm to stifle her reaction as the Predator hauls the archer's body up and through the brush, while Skyler, catching the motion spins round.

The Predator hesitates a moment to turn, looking over his shoulder, his weapon tracking back as Skyler's rifle tracks towards him. Valenta tenses her legs, her free hand clenching her pack as both man and monster's weapons flash and blast simultaneously.

Skyler is thrown back with Predator's the blast coursing across his chest armour and face, while his 40mm grenade launcher blast rips the jungle apart and staggers the retreating Predator.

Valenta lunges up.

PAREZ

What -?

VALENTA

Track!

She leaps straight after the Predator, plunging into the darkness as the camp leaps awake, everyone spinning around to search, noticing Skyler, leaping to his aid and looking the way the Predator escaped, levelling guns.

PAREZ

No!

Waving the men down.

TURLEY

What!?

PAREZ

Valenta's out there!

TURLEY

Huh?

PAREZ

She's tracking it!

INT. BAIT SHOP - NIGHT

Alarms are flashing on screens. Zhao leaning over the screens as Schaefer rolls out of his bunk. Zhao tapping the location onscreen.

ZHAO

One energy spike here Major.

SCHAEFER

That's Beta team.

He turn to the radioman, PETTI.

SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

Anything?

EXT. JUNGLE (BETA TEAM) - NIGHT

Turley is on the radio to Schaefer.

TURLEY

Major we have a confirmed contact.  
One man down, seriously injured but  
alive.

We suspect one man dead, missing,  
but dead.

(a beat)

Sir, we also have one missing  
Valenta, the runner. According to  
Parez she took off after the  
target.

I also think we hit it sir, we may  
have injured or marked it.

INT. BAIT SHOP - NIGHT

More people are awake and operating screens, scanners and other tech, a couple of muddied men passing through to the outside.

Schaefer's on the radio to Turley and waving instruction to Zhao and the others.

SCHAEFER

We'll airlift your injured at dawn,  
but we'll have drones there soon.

We see a hint at drone cameras on a couple of screens changing direction over dark jungle, infrared glowing in the dark.