

EDEN'S PATH

6th June, 2670

The night-time rain lashed down, barely stirring the rust crusted all over the cars left littering the city of Eden's Path. It soaked vines growing over long abandoned buildings, splashed in though smashed skylights and ran in torrents over waterlogged parkland. Huge droplets rattled over massive hunks of steel and armour plate – Long abandoned mining drills, the remnants of a desperate, failed counter attack two hundred years ago.

It had made no difference. Eden Prime was now in the hands of the Scourge. Eden's Path had fallen on the second day of the invasion. The little resistance present was brushed aside. The city that had once been full of art and culture and life – of no material use to the Great Enemy – was left to rust and crumble away with only routine Scourge patrols sent to ensure it stayed dead. But it was not dead. Far from it.

Sara sat hunched up below a ceased up drilling head that had ripped its way up through the middle of the street two centuries ago. Her cell leader always said it was a reminder of how not to attack the Scourge, a lifeless monument to desperate acts. She thought it looked like frozen statue, so full of potential speed and violent life that any second it would roar back into battle. Ready to come back to the fight again, even in this downpour.

She was lookout today. It should have been Drani, but he had grumbled about it as usual and she volunteered. Sara still didn't know why she had, but for some reason it just felt right. She had to be out here tonight, though the idea seemed worse and worse as the time wore on. She rubbed her arms, hugging them close against her chest for warmth.

Well she thought at least there's no lightning. With all the tall buildings in the area, a strike wasn't likely, but she'd seen the drills hit before, and this close to such a huge hunk of metal she was cautious. She hadn't dodged plasma fire all her life just to get killed by the weather.

Looking up, she saw light crack though the clouds a few miles away.

I had to go and think that, didn't I? She thought, checking left and right before running out into the rain towards the closest office block. Half way across she slowed, then came to a complete stop. No thunder. This close, there should have been thunder. She looked up again. The light was still there.

Moving, but not fast enough. Rain soaked her clothes as she stood in shock. It was no lightning.

They were coming...

