

Missing in Action

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. FOREST - DAY 1

The super soldier Spartan Gus and the two ODST special forces soldiers Delta and Apex, all wearing helmets and futuristic armor, walk through the forest towards their objective.

GUS

I have eyes on a shelter. Let's hunker down while that Covenant patrol passes.

2 INT. RAMSHACKLE BARN - DAY 2

Gus, Delta and Apex form up on the door to the barn. Gus swings open the door and breaches the room as the ODSTs follow and clear the room. The room looks old, but contains hastily abandoned items of a recent camp.

GUS

Clear.

A small Covenant ship is heard passing overhead as the party crouches by the wall and aims their weapons up until the ship fully passes and the room is silent again.

DELTA

Sounds like it's passed.

GUS

I'll keep security, you two can take your buckets off and rest.

Delta takes his helmet off and drinks from his canteen while Apex takes his helmet off and starts rummaging through the items that were left behind.

APEX

These insurrectionists must have left in a hurry.

DELTA

Of course, that alien carrier over the city has been terrorizing these people for days.

APEX

Serves them right.

DELTA

What the hell are you talking about?

APEX

Delta, the whole planet rebelled against us, they can't be surprised we aren't here to save them.

DELTA

Don't you think that's wrong?

GUS

I think it's the mission. Find anything useful Apex?

APEX

Just this toy.

Apex pulls out a small toy Spartan and hands it to Gus.

GUS

My brother and I used to play with these when we were kids...

DELTA

Where is he?

GUS

Missing in action.

Gus puts the toy in a pouch.

GUS (CONT'D)

Delta is right, we have a convoy to catch.

DELTA

It still feels like we're kicking them while they're down.

GUS

All that matters is we get that artifact, now lets move!

Delta and Apex put their helmets back on and follow Gus out of the door.

3

EXT. FOREST - DAY

3

In the middle of the forest, Gus stops the squad by raising a fist.

GUS
I see movement on my motion
tracker.

A loud shot rings out and Delta is struck by a sniper round through his abdomen and falls to the ground.

APEX
Sniper!

Gus spots an insurrectionist holding the sniper rifle and kills him with his assault rifle. Two more insurrectionists pop out of the woods and open fire on Gus with SMGs. The shots just bounce off of his armor, and Apex returns fire with his own machine gun, killing the insurrectionists.

Apex rushes over to Delta and pulls out a healing biofoam canister.

APEX (CONT'D)
This is the only canister we have,
but you'll be alright.

Delta wheezes as Apex inserts the nozzle of the biofoam canister into his abdomen and starts sealing the wound.

DELTA
cough Guess we're getting close!

GUS
Stay here, I'll call for evac.

APEX
You're calling in our ride now? I
thought you said the artifact came
first!

GUS
We'll find a way. Let's get going.

APEX
See ya on the other side, softy.

DELTA
Piss *cough* off, Apex. Talk to me
when you get the artifact.

Gus takes Delta's laser rifle and walks off with Apex.

In a large clearing cutting a path across the forest between two plains, the roaring of vehicles is heard from the left.

GUS

Halt! I hear vehicles, Apex set up your machine gun over there.

Gus points to a spot concealed by bushes to his left. Apex walks over and crouches in the shrubbery, resting his machine gun on a rock. Gus moves to the right and sets up his laser rifle overlooking the entrance to the clearing.

A convoy of vehicles appears from the entrance, revealing an armored halftrack in the lead, a small Jeep in the middle and a large truck in the back as the trundle along slowly. All vehicles are open topped, and they are packed with insurrectionists peaking out of the tops, scanning the horizon.

APEX

Shit, did the innies loot a museum?

GUS

Stay focused. I'll target the lead vehicle, you fire at the last.

Once the vehicles come close to the squad, Gus destroys the front halftrack with his laser. Realizing they are under attack, innies pile out of the vehicles and start shooting in Gus's direction. Apex opens fire and starts hosing down innies with his machine gun. Gus also returns fire with his assault rifle.

Apex runs out of ammo and leaps behind cover. He pulls out his pistol and shoots an innie that approaches him.

APEX

I think that's the last of them-

A spartan with a helmet partially resembling a skull sneaks out of the bushes and pushes Apex to the ground, knocking off his helmet. Apex screams.

The rogue Spartan crushes Apex's skull with a single blow from the butt of his SMG.

The rogue Spartan turns to Gus to see Gus has his laser out. The rogue Spartan raises his SMG and starts shooting at Gus while charging at him, but gets blasted by the laser half way and is knocked down.

GUS

Who the hell are you?

Gus takes off the rogue Spartan's helmet, revealing a face that shocks him.

GUS (CONT'D)

SAM? You're alive?

Gus takes off his helmet and drops his weapon

SAM

Gus! You don't understand what
you're doing.

Gus drops to his knees and pulls out a a med patch to stop
Sam's bleeding, but it's clear it won't be enough.

GUS

All these years I thought you were
dead you were working for the
enemy.

SAM

I'm trying to save my people.

GUS

Of course you are, that's why
you're making off with a valuable
artifact and leaving them behind.

SAM

Of course that's all you think
about. It's not an artifact, it's a
bomb.

GUS

What are you talking about?

SAM

When it's activated the Covenant
will try to take it, then it goes
off and boom, everyone can escape.

GUS

That's a one way trip, how did you
plan...

GUS (CONT'D)

You weren't planning on getting
out, were you?

SAM

Isn't that why we dreamed of being
Spartans?

Sam dies, and Gus looks at the Covenant ship and city in the
distance. Gus sees the bomb in the Jeep and gets in it. He
drives away from the city as fast as he can.

5 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

5

Gus activates the artifact and sees the Covenant ship approach him. He pulls the toy Spartan out of his bag and looks at it as the Covenant ship looms overhead.

6 INT. UNSC SPACE SHIP ARGUING SEMANTICS - SPACE

6

The UNSC destroyer is floating calmly in space as a BRIDGE OFFICER observes the situation on the ground.

BRIDGE OFFICER

Captain, only one of the ODSTs returned, and we just detected a large explosion on the surface that has destroyed the Covenant ship. Civilian transports from the city are requesting permission to dock.

CAPTAIN

Grant them permission, then make a series of random jumps so we aren't followed.

Various transports enter the hanger.

BRIDGE OFFICER

Sir, what about the Spartan?

CAPTAIN

List him as Missing in Action.

FADE TO BLACK.