The Stone Tiger

Back to sessions

Setting: Mauthus II

Part I: The Lair of the Tiger

- Scene 1: The Long Drop
 - Drug smuggling, Mauthus II style an orbital drop in a cargo pod.
 - The pod is grappled, but Jon Hector shakes it loose.
- Scene 2: Off Target
 - Eight and Dirk Richter scout the environment, while Xiao Ling meets the locals.
 - Richter offers a tasty target.
 - Eric Carson combines frontier know-how with high-tech savvy.
- Scene 3: Enter the Tiger
 - The team meets a dangerous and desperate woman.
 - Carson sets to work, healing bodies and minds.
- Scene 4: The Lay of the Land
 - Mauthus Capitol: decadence and corruption in an Ancient shipwreck.
 - Eight, Hector and Carson contemplate dark marvels, while Ling and Richter encounter dark motives.
 - There is no sign of Shank...

Part 2: Revenge of the Tiger

- Scene 1: Up and Over
 - Eight, Dirk Richter and the Tiger take the long way up and around.
 - Jon Hector, Xiao Ling and Eric Carson join the frontal assault party.
- Scene 2: Driven to Distraction
 - Eight makes contact with the Ancients' legacy and finds it uncooperative.
 - Distractions abound as Hector instigates a dishonorable discharge; Ling and Carson arm the troops; Richter takes control of the situation; Eight persuades the systems to accept her; and Lady Oq forces a confrontation.
 - Richter is a little short for a stormtrooper.
- Scene 3: The Dark Thought Generator
 - Richter dodges a bolt or three.
 - Eight makes a bid for the throne.
 - Hector makes a bid for the throne.
 - Lord Zaous places his faith in technology; Lady Oq keeps her distance.
 - Carson faces his darkest thoughts, and triumphs.
- Scene 4: Aftermath
 - Ling makes an unauthorised broadcast.
 - Zaous is brought low, and the Tiger is triumphant.
 - Eight takes a souvenir.
 - Mauthus II begins a long and painful rebirth but how ancient are the Ancients?

Last update: 2011/01/14 02:57

Quotes

- Jon Hector: Do you shoot it to switch it on, or switch it off?
- Xiao Ling: When he's fascinated by an object he counts as an innocent.

Continuity

- Brilliant inventive ideas of Jon Hector needlessly shot down as overly complicated and hazardous to life and limb. In this case:
 - Modifying the GravChute of the cargo pod to discharge all its energy in a giant leap at a modified handscanner as a location beacon (for when a safe location was found for the pod to land)
 - Having Dirk Richter sneak the handscanner into the lair of the big bad and circumventing the loss of peasant army lives with this makeshift suborbital weapon.

Back to sessions

session report, episode 2, episode 3, human space

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