



# Beyond Conviction Casting Call March/April 2023

Book launch Advertising/Marketing  
Voiceovers

The purpose of this project is to supply an advertising campaign with the required character lines from the upcoming novel “Beyond Conviction. This advertising campaign includes video and audio advertisements for social media sites such as facebook, instagram, tiktok, reddit, youtube, as well as more niche industry publications/websites/podcasts.

This is a paid commercial project working with our own IP. Styled after a radio play. Please see further details below.

## Project Details:

- You must be 18 years old or over. A valid form of ID will be required, only from the successful candidates.
- This project has one male and two female characters available.
- The project is **paid**
- If selected, you must be able to turn over lines within a week of being cast as we are working within strict deadlines.

- Must be using a high-quality microphone, preferably an XLR. Any recordings with any amount of background noise, hissing, popping or echo will not be considered. You must be able to provide recordings appropriate to a finished commercial product.
- This project *only* pertains to the advertising campaign, however, quality candidates will be the first considered for the following audiobook.

## How to Audition:

- Audition must be in an Mp3 or WAV format with the role and your username.  
For example: CharacterName\_YourName.wav
- Send your audition and details to [christopher.watson146@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.watson146@gmail.com)
- Please do not do heavy editing on your auditions.
- Every line must be its own file. Different takes for the same line may be included in the same file. Selection will occur based on the “best” take. Failed or re-attempted takes will not be counted against you.
- Voice fry is to be considered your greatest enemy for the duration of this project.
- Please save your own copy of the takes/submission. We may keep copies of quality candidates for future internal reference, but it should be expected all unsuccessful candidates' submissions will be deleted.
- **Auditions close April 14th 2023**

## Background:

Beyond Conviction is a romantic, hard scifi space operatic. The world presented to readers is a bleak dichotomy. Set in the far future, Humanity is well past a golden age of expansion and technological innovation. Most of the advanced technologies we envision today have not only been achieved, but surpassed. Yet despite this, most of the technology is unobtainable to the majority of humanity. The story opens on our main character, Ellie, living on the edge of starvation within an 1840s frontier-like lifestyle. A draft of the blurb is copied below:

“Adroa is a bleak, backwater world on the edge of known civilisation, with every day a struggle to survive for Ellie and her two siblings. Yet when a heavily armed Conviction soldier falls from the sky and into her lap, she must face dangers even greater than the ravenous Rike swarms that threaten to consume her and her entire colony. Something is stirring in the dark between galaxies as the greatest military power humanity has ever known empties its garrisons and leaves its worlds undefended. Can a simple melon farmer rebuild her shattered home in peace, or will Ellie and her family be dragged into a galactic conflict that could determine the future of the Conviction itself?”

## Character Roles:



**Ellie White:** Our Main character. Ellie was unlucky enough to be born beautiful in a bleak, desperate and crumbling society. Most interactions throughout her life have involved people trying to take something from her in one form or another. This has left Ellie extremely timid, guarded and pessimistic. She is by nature a sweet and caring person who wants to see the best in people, but has been taken advantage of so many times she has trouble believing in simple concepts such as kindness, care and altruism. Her voice should default to a quiet, hesitant and nervous mannerism unless specified otherwise.

### **Ellies' Character Info:**

- 21 years old
- Quiet/Timid
- Pessimistic
- Very nervous
- Sweet/Caring
- *Wants* to be hopeful
- Downtrodden

### **Voice Type Needed:**

- Female
- Soft, Mid-High voice tone
- Timid

Ellie will have a handful of voice lines as advertisements are expected to range from 10 seconds to 2 minutes.

**Pay for Ellie will be \$40**

## Ellie Lines:

### Line 1, Out of Context:

*normal speaking voice, trying to be comforting, motherly*

"Shhh. We'll make up for it tomorrow okay? I love you, and I'll need your help to get everything moved and loaded. For now, I need you to get your rest, so you can lift the crates and pull the cart. You can do that for me can't you?"

### Line 2, Out of Context:

*Breathlessly, amazed, in wonderment*

"Jake, this is amazing. I've never...I've never been to the ocean before. Honestly, I never thought I'd see it in real life. Only in the daydreams of a girl stuck buried in the bottom of a hive world."

### Line 3, Out of Context:

*Desperate*

"Jake. Is there anything we can do? I don't know if the colony will survive without Slackvore. Everything we have. The Mathews, the Lindens, our friends and neighbours, everyone who has built a life on Adroa will lose it all. And we don't have anywhere else to go either. Please, is there anything, anything?"

*Very desperate*

"Jake please!"

### Line 4, Out of Context:

*Breaking down, crying*

"I'm just a girl, Jake. I'm not a superhero or some character in a fairy tale. No matter what I do it's never enough. No matter how fierce Alayna is or how supportive Jonathan is or how hard I try, it didn't matter in the end. If you hadn't dropped out of the sky when you did we would all be dead by now. All you do is give and give and give, so much that I'm never going to be able to repay you. They already trust you, Jake! Jonathan takes shelter behind you and Alayna sits in your lap! And after everything, you still turn around and say I'm the special one. You're wrong.

You are so, so wrong, And I can't *stand* the way you're looking at me like I'm something special!"

## In context Exerpts, Line 1:

Ellie moved to coax them towards bed once the washing had been done. Alayna went upstairs without complaint. Jonathan, however, lagged behind. Stepping up to him, Ellie ran her fingers gently through his hair, ruffling the fibres and feeling them slide across her palm. She opened her mouth to speak when he suddenly threw his arms around her in a shaky hug.

"I'm sorry I didn't get more," he whispered. "Shhh", Ellie hushed. "We'll make up for it tomorrow okay?" she said, squeezing him. "I love you. And I will need your help to get everything moved and loaded." She said softly as she stroked his face in an almost motherly fashion. "I need you to get your rest, so you can lift and move and pull the cart. You can do that for me can't you?"

Jonathan looked up at her. His electric blue eyes reflected her own. His mouth quivered as he tried to resist the urge to break into tears. He nodded.

"I will," he said quietly. "I promise."

### **In context Exerpts, Line 2:**

A breath caught in Ellie's throat. All around her, as far as she could see, electric blue waves rolled in to crash against pure white sand. The ocean seemed to extend forever. No building or trees rose above her, no distant movement or marred spots sullied its surface. Ellie had never experienced Casadastraphobia, but with the endless expanse of space ahead of her, Ellie's head swam with a sense of vertigo. Her hand unconsciously tightened around Jake's arm. Even standing on the upper levels of the city hadn't provoked this feeling within her. Seeing manmade structures gave a scale to things, a way to gauge distances and quantify area. Whereas space had the opposite problem. The distances were so vast and the size of things on a cosmic scale so massive one couldn't possibly hope to fully understand it. Space might technically have been larger, but this felt larger to Ellie. Falling along a cognitive line that threatened to break the limits of her perception, without crossing over into the incomprehensible

Here, she was unable to tell the size of the waves as they rose and fell, spreading out to impossibly thin lines that came to a stop just before her feet. They stood on a small peninsula of land that jutted out into the ocean. The beach was wide, smooth and practically empty. They were effectively alone, with barely a handful of people in her entire field of vision until she turned back to the city proper.

"Jake, this is amazing," Ellie said breathlessly. "I've never...I've never been to the ocean before. Honestly, I never thought I'd see it in real life. Only in the daydreams of a girl stuck buried in the bottom of a hive world."

When she turned to Jake, Ellie almost jumped. For a brief moment, she caught him looking at her in total awe. The shine of wonderment sparkled in his wide eyes as he stared at her. As quick as she noticed it, the look disappeared. A fleeting moment that set off a fresh wave of fluttering inside her as he caught himself and returned to his usual smile.

"You certainly have a way of making people appreciate the little things Ellie; I'll give you that," he said in an almost embarrassed tone, diverting his gaze to look down.

### **In context Exerpts, Line 3:**

“How much of a chance do you think the boarders have?” Ellie asked, trying to control the quiver in her voice.

“From the looks of it, I’d say they pretty much have it won,” Jake answered.

The floor of Ellie's stomach dropped out and her head snapped to Jake.

“What do you mean? How could you possibly know that!” Ellie exclaimed in shock.

She heard Alayna and Jonathan stir in the back seat, but she ignored them. Jake pointed to the screen, singling out one of the barges that had punched through the outer hull towards the front of the Blister Fang. The visage reminded Ellie of a wolf, jumping up and clamping its jaws onto the neck of a bear.

“That barge punched through right below the bridge,” Jake said. “They could have hard docked but chose not to. That’s too precise to be random, it had to have been a deliberate target. Which means they know the layout of the ship and its critical systems. The others have made hard dock or rammed through all over the hull. They’re aiming to split the crew and prevent them from defending any one system or choke point. Pirates usually rattle their sabres from a distance or go in guns blazing, untrained and undisciplined. This is more organised than that. This is either a mercenary outfit, or they happen to have a very competent commander. Either way, Slackvore will be cut off from his crew, facing a capable, armed, organised force, and no amount of bravado will save him once they cut through the bridge doors.”

Ellie's breathing became harder. How had the moment turned from calm to panic so quickly?

“Is there anything we can do?” Ellie grasped. “Lara has weapons, you’re a pilot!”

Jake turned to Ellie, looking her up and down. His gaze wasn’t without sympathy, but it was cold.

“You’re asking me to fly into combat with two kids in the back seat?” Jake asked evenly.

Ellie stopped short, fear and frustration building up in her mind. Jake was right; she was panicking, not thinking. She couldn’t fly into battle with her entire family in tow. She had no idea what the situation truly was. What their odds might be or what could happen. If what Jake had said about space flight earlier was true, Ellie wasn’t even sure they’d survive Jake's flying if he was forced to push it to the limit.

But still, Slackvore was their one link to space. Their one exporter. Even if he was a manipulating, profiteering bastard.

"Jake. Is there anything we can do?" Ellie asked desperately, tears welling up in the corner of her eyes. "I don't know if the colony will survive without him. Everything we have. The Mathews, the Lindens, our friends and neighbours, everyone who has built a life on Adroa will lose it all. And we don't have anywhere else to go either. Please, is there anything, anything?" Ellie choked. Her eyes were burning and a desperate fear was taking over her.

Jake's face was ashen. There was something guilty in his movements. He remained silent, refusing to meet her gaze.

"Jake, please!" Ellie cried desperately, reaching across the gap between them to grab his arm with both hands.

#### **In context Exerpts, Line 4:**

"Come on, Ellie," Jake said with an amused tone and a smile on his face. "Even Alayna touched on it earlier. You worked for months cultivating your harvest. You were back and forth to the spaceport for market day, then export day. You fought off Hunter and dealt with Slackvore. You survived losing your home and escaping a Rike swarm. You let a stranger take you away to a far-off planet and immediately started to rebuild. You stood firm when the decision to throw a Conviction patrol boat after a mercenary outfit was sprung on you and even weathered me when I lost myself a little. Throughout everything, the only thing you've cared about has been Jonathan and Alayna. Each obstacle you've dealt with would have been enough to crush so many other people. Yet you've handled each of them with nothing short of grace. I've known soldiers, officers and commanders who didn't remain as cool under fire or show such devotion to duty as you. You are amazing, Ellie, and I wish you could see that."

Ellie felt the floor open up beneath her. She raised her head to look at him as he spoke, and was transfixed by his gaze. Ellie had no idea how to handle this. She didn't think anything he was saying was nearly as big of a deal as he was making it out to be. Yet at the same time, she couldn't argue that those things had happened. Ellie felt something well up inside her as he spoke. Something that was causing her core to shake.

"You're wrong," Ellie said, tears welling up in her eyes. He was so far off the mark that she wasn't even sure how to correct him. Her words started pouring from her without much thought.

"Jonathan and Alayna are practically skeletons. My tiny farm was the best I could do, and even then it wasn't enough to support us. You and Alayna were the ones to fight off Hunter, and I paid Slackvore thirty times the price for a broken-down old wind turbine, thinking I was somehow pulling the wool over their eyes. I didn't do anything but run from the swarm, and how many people died because I thought I could help save the Blister Fang? And now I've unleashed something even the bravest person I know is afraid of!"



Ellie became aware of wet trails running down her cheeks. She hadn't felt the tears come, but now she could feel her body being raked with great rasping breaths. Any semblance of composure was lost as Ellie felt herself being forced to face what she'd so desperately tried to turn away from.

"You asked me how I got here. You wouldn't be saying any of these things if you knew! I'm a fraud, a pretender. And I can't stand the way you're looking at me like I'm something special!"

Ellie raised her hands to cover her face. She couldn't deal with this anymore.

"I'm just a girl, Jake," Ellie pleaded as she shook her head from side to side. "I'm not a superhero or some character in a fairy tale. No matter what I do it's never enough. No matter how fierce Alayna is or how supportive Jonathan is or how hard I try, it didn't matter in the end. If you hadn't dropped out of the sky when you did we would all be dead by now."

Ellie choked, her throat was constricting, and her voice was becoming a desperate wail.

"All you do is give and give and give, so much that I'm never going to be able to repay you. They already trust you, Jake! Jonathan takes shelter behind you and Alayna sits in your lap! And after everything, you still turn around and say I'm the special one. You're wrong. You are so, so wrong-" Ellie's throat gave up on her, tightening to the point it strangled off her already struggling voice.

Strong arms closed around her. A warmth radiated from them as Jake drew her in tight. Ellie felt her face fall into the shelter of his neck. A soft, rhythmic heartbeat grounded her as caring hands stroked her head, running fingers through her hair.

Ellie didn't resist, she couldn't. It was finally too much, her damn broke. The ups and downs, the terrors and joys of the past few days and weeks finally overcame her. Grief and loss and hope all mixed together. Everything she had put aside to process later finally pushed its way to the forefront of her mind, and she could no longer hold it back. She wasn't invincible.





**Alayna White:** Angry, at everything, all the time. Alayna is Ellie's younger sister. While Ellie dealt with the difficulties of the world by retracting into herself and doing her best to hide her and her siblings, Alayna went loud. Highly confrontational, argumentative and cynical, Alaynas preferred strategy to keep her family safe is to rip the face off of anyone who walks within a hundred meters of them. Alayna is built small but walks with a swagger, carrying a confidence born of a willingness to throw down at a moments notice. Alayna is a typical tsundere, incredulous, abrasive with a strong sense of superiority, and whose default tone is shouting.

#### **Alaynas' Character Info:**

- Angry, at everything, all the time
- No seriously, fuck you and the horse you rode in on
- Loud, aggressive, argumentative
- Hate's everything
- Everyone except her is an idiot
- Embodiment of wrath and disdain
- Typical angsty 16 year old
- Highly cynical

#### **Voice Type Needed:**

- Female
- Mid-High voice tone (for 16yo)
- Able to hiss and shout

Alayna will have a handful of voice lines as advertisements are expected to range from 10 seconds to 2 minutes.

**Pay for Alayna will be \$60**

## Alaynas' Lines:

### Line 1, Out of Context:

*Shocked, angry*

"Are you kidding me!"

*Disgusted, angry*

"Jonathan, this is a fraction of what you were supposed to get! Can't you ever grow a spine! They only charge you that much because they know they can get away with it when it's you! We're going to be eating marshweed for *months* because you can't ever put your foot down!"

*Mockingly, angry*

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Is that all you have to say for yourself! Being sorry doesn't feed us, Jonathan. It doesn't save us from the swarms when the bullets run out! What are you gonna' do when the Rike come crashing through the door? Just roll over and let them eat you because you're too *polite* to put up a fight!"

*Screaming, very angry*

"Say something else!"

### Line 2, Out of Context:

*Shrieking, maximum anger, almost incoherent*

"DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!"

### Line 3, Out of Context:

*Indignant, disgusted, sarcastic*

"\*scoff\* And let that dirty pirate captain pay us cents for what he's going to sell for dols and keep the difference because of 'shipping costs?'"

*Complaining*

"Ugh...Why do you need me here? Why can't I just lie under the cart until it's time to go home."

### Line 4, Out of Context:

*Confrontational, hissing, threatening*

"And what makes you think you can talk to Ellie like that!"

*Accusingly, mockingly, full of herself*

"You might have been Conviction but that doesn't mean you get to treat Ellie that way. You think you know everything but you don't. You think we're ignorant but we're not. We've already worked out your big scary secret, as if it wasn't already blindingly obvious."

### In context Exerpts, Line 1:

"Are you kidding me!" Alayna exclaimed as she stomped over towards them. She snatched the sack out of Ellie's hand to look inside. "Jonathan, this is a *fraction* of what you were supposed to get!" she said in a disgusted tone, throwing the top of the sack down.

"I'm sorry," he said.

"Can't you ever grow a spine! They only charge you that much because they know they can get away with it when it's you!"

"I'm sorry," he said, his head dropping even further.

"We're going to be eating marshweed for months because you can't ever put your foot down!" she practically shouted.

"I'm sorry." He resigned in monotone acceptance.

"Alayna-" Ellie began. "*I'm sorry, I'm sorry,*" Alayna parroted. "Is that *all* you have to say for yourself! Being sorry doesn't feed us, Jonathan. It doesn't save us from the swarms when the bullets run out! What are you gonna' do when the Rike come crashing through the door? Just roll over and let them eat you because you're too *polite* to put up a fight!"

"I'm sorry."

"Say something else!" she screamed.

### In context Exerpts, Line 2:

A knot of people was forming around the source of the noise as Ellie dove forward. Apologising without direction as she pushed through in a panic. By now, Ellie could clearly make out Alayna cursing a torrent of obscenities that could scour the rust off the ship and make even the seasoned pirates reconsider their life choices.

As she finally broke through the frontline, Ellie immediately froze as she realised what was happening. Alayna had her feet planted as she was loosely surrounded by a group of large men, screaming death at one in particular. That man was none other than Hunter-Jay. A wide, leering grin left the hog of a man looking like a cat that had just eaten the fattest canary it had ever seen.

The next few moments happened before Ellie could react. Alayna was squared off against Hunter as one of his men rushed in from behind. Ellie felt ice pierce her soul as he wrapped his

arms around Alayna's waist and picked her up. Alayna's eyes went wide with shock and disbelief, the movement signalling the others to close in around her.

**"DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!"**

Alayna screamed in a high-pitched shrill. The end of her sentence devolving into a crazed banshee shriek. Her arm raised up, her fingers curling as she slashed back down. The first man that had rushed forward from beside Hunter screamed as she clawed his face. Sharp nails raked against soft skin, opening up several long gashes that spurted blood. The man dropped to his knees screaming as he clutched his ruined face with shaking hands.

The viciousness of the attack caused all those around her to hesitate and stunned the crowd to silence, looking on in shock. But the frail-looking girl wasn't done. With her arm still swinging, she used it to grab the shoulder of the lackey holding her. Using it for leverage, she spun around inside his grip and pulled herself upwards. He let out a pitched cry of shock and desperate agony as Alayna sunk her teeth into the side of his neck.

### **In context Exerpts, Line 3:**

With a light sigh, she turned to Alayna.

"Let's load them back onto the cart while we wait for Jonathan. We'll bring them back for export tomorrow."

Alayna scoffed.

**"And let that dirty pirate captain pay us cents for what he's going to sell for dols and keep the difference because of 'shipping costs?'"** She hissed.

"He's not a pirate," Ellie lied. "And Alayna, please, you must watch what you say out loud. He's the only way we can get *anything* for what we have. Even a few dols are better than letting them rot in the cupboard. And if you keep burning all our bridges we'll have nowhere left to turn," She pleaded.

Alayna's brow furrowed as she crossed her arms over her chest. Her foot tapped angrily for a few moments. She turned suddenly, grabbing the nearest crate to stomp away towards their cart.

### **In context Exerpts, Line 4:**

"That was a trump card," Jake interrupted, his back still to her. He was quiet, and Ellie was shocked to hear a quiver in his voice.

"A one-time use, world-ending trump card. And I just spent it saving a goddamn pirate!" Jake suddenly spun to face her, his voice rising. "Do you have any idea what using that might have brought down on our heads?" He demanded. "What I might have to do now to keep you safe? You have no idea what could be coming!"

Ellie was taken aback. She had been expecting an outburst. She had been expecting to deal with anger. She'd expected screaming and raging and resentment. But not this. Jake's eyes were wide, his shoulders and hands were shaking, and his mouth was turned downwards. Ellie felt her stomach flip as she realised Jake wasn't angry; he was scared.

"And what makes you think you can talk to Ellie like that!" Alayna hissed venomously as she walked up beside Ellie. Ellie put her hand on the girl's shoulder to try and control her but the redhead shrugged it off immediately, stepping forward to square up against Jake.

"You might have been Conviction but that doesn't mean you get to treat Ellie that way," Alayna continued to hiss, putting her hands on her hips and leaning forward, a tone of accusation in her voice. "You think you know everything but you don't. You think we're ignorant but we're not. We've already worked out your big scary secret, as if it wasn't already blindingly obvious."

"And what would that be, Spitfire?" Jake's eyes dropped to Alayna. He was still shaking, but as Ellie watched, his jaw set. An icy tone permeated his words as he slowly spoke.

Alayna scoffed, indignant.

"That you're nothing but a coward. A runaway. A deserter-"

"I AM NOT A DESERTER!" Jake suddenly roared, rounding on Alayna.

Even the dragon of a girl unconsciously took a half step back from the fierceness in Jake's face. His teeth were bared and he loomed over the much smaller girl. His expression was contorted into one of rage. Silence fell as everyone was frozen in place.





- Optimist

**Voice Type Needed:**

- Male
- Soft, Mid voice tone
- Enthusiastic (personal)
- Concise (Professional)

Jake will have a handful of voice lines as advertisements are expected to range from 10 seconds to 2 minutes.

**Pay for Jake will be \$40**

**Jakes' Lines:**

**Jake Ardent:** Jake has two sides to him. Personally, he is enthusiastic, honest, kind and optimistic to a fault. He is highly supportive and protective of Ellie and her family and is the antithesis of her pessimism. Professionally, he is cold, unforgiving and brutal. Being a soldier of the Conviction has him see the world in black and white, with an unhealthy detached attitude towards death and killing. When voicing him speaking on his own terms, he should be a walking ray of sunshine who has a tendency to babble. When voicing him in a military context, he should be short, professional and efficient.

**Jakes' Character Info:**

- 22 years old
- Just happy to be here
- Full of healthy relationship advice
- Supportive and encouraging
- Highly trained and experienced elite military pilot
- Brutal and uncompromising when it comes to violence

**Line 1, Out of Context:**

*Calm, initiating radio contact*

"FFSA dash two two one seven to LDPB Conglomerated Affinity. How copy, over."

*Authoritative*

"Affinity actual, you are to go to full battlestations and move at emergency speed to assist a friendly freighter currently under assault by known seditious forces, callsign Blister Fang. Two two one seven will remain on station to coordinate fighter squadron, callsign Bluebird one.

Scramble fighters and engage immediately. Seditious forces are to be executed without remorse. Confirm copy."

*Professional under stress, raised voice, urgent*

"Affinity break right! Ripple bearing zero seven zero! Vampire! Vampire! Vampire!"

**Line 2, Out of Context:**

*Guardedly friendly, trying to de-escalate a dangerous situation*

"Easy friend, plenty of space out here on the frontier; no need to crowd in like that."

**Line 3, Out of Context:**

*Low, threatening, condescending*

"I'll admit, I thought you would have had enough of a survival instinct to know not to pick a fight with someone armed, and armoured, in full battle kit. It seems I may have overestimated you.

So let me make this extremely clear, so I can be sure there are no misunderstandings. If you come near any of those three again, or you pull some stupid stunt to try and collect on that 'debt' you were spouting off about, and I promise, no matter where you run on this little, *blip* of a planet, you won't make it to see the next sunrise."

**Line 4, Out of Context:**

*Normal speaking voice, explaining*

"I know it may be tempting to picture some spunky young rebels overthrowing a military-industrial complex, but the reality is something altogether different."

*Teasing, coy, playful*

"Naaw, what's the matter Spitfire, did you want to run off and be a rebel? Going to fly around with a band of misfits and fight with the wind in your hair and a dramatic sunset in the background?"



### **In context Exerpts, Line 1:**

"It's about to get real, no one speaks unless I tell you to, clear?" Jake asked, quickly looking to each of them.

Ellie didn't have time to respond as all at once, the Conglomerated Affinity was on them. The streaks Ellie had seen before slammed to a halt, dissolving on the screen into a series of Conviction fighters. They shared a distant resemblance to Lara. They had the same forward-swept wings and large rear engine banks. But where Lara was wide and flat, these were pointed, angled, almost needle-like. Their styling made them look like angry, armoured hornets. Voices exploded in Ellie's ears as Lara's cockpit was filled with the overlapping chatter of multiple voices.

"Hostiles locked, Predator merging" "Hostile tally, fox-three!" "Chaff, chaff, gunt! Splash one" "Fox-two" "Aspect hot!" "Splash two hostiles" "Bruiser launched!"

Fireballs erupted over the screen as the Conviction fighters began chasing down the attackers. Ellie looked on in horror as the fleeing pilots tried to turn, spin or manoeuvre any way they could, but it was like watching a cast of hawks descend upon a rabbit warren. The Conviction fighters flew faster, turned sharper, and each bright streak of weapons fire seemed to find a target. Ships were blown apart into shrapnel and gas without the Conviction fighters taking so much as a single hit. It was a slaughter.

The Conglomerated Affinity itself entered the frame. Against Ellie's expectations, a little smaller than the Blister Fang, but infinitely more intimidating. The attacker's main ship peppering the Blister Fangs engines had already begun veering off to one side. As the Affinity entered the scene, dark spots started appearing all over the attacker's hull. Jake suddenly shouted.

**"Affinity break right! Ripple, bearing zero seven zero. Vampire! Vampire! Vampire!"**

The Affinities engines lit up as lines of burning fire flew from the dark spots of the attacking ship. With rising panic, Ellie realised they were tipped with the long, silver forms of missiles. They flew wide from their ship, turning to converge toward the Affinity from multiple angles.

The chattering voices devolved into chaos as the surface of the Affinity erupted with streaking trails of weapons fire. Some missiles exploded as they were hit, others dodged out of the way. The Affinities guns spun, attempting to track them, leaving curved, glowing paths expanding out into the darkness of space.

### **In context Exerpts, Line 2:**

*Because you're a violent, foul-smelling, self-entitled prick who only wants me for my chest!* Ellie heard herself think with uncharacteristic venom.

Ellie could feel her eyes begin to burn. A cold acceptance of what she'd have to do formed in the pit of her stomach. She forced her chin to start rising, to look up and meet his gaze.

When a soft clap jerked her head all the way up in surprise.

"Easy friend, plenty of space out here on the frontier; no need to crowd in like that." A bright and welcoming voice carried from a figure that had just slapped his hand on Hunter's shoulder.

Ellie jerked back, impacting Alayna behind her and forcing the small girl to backpedal a step in surprise. Even Hunter flinched away from the newcomer. It was an instinctive reaction, one that had been drilled into them from the earliest days of life to the visage that stood before them.

Standing within arm's reach of them, almost halfway between Ellie and Hunter, was the intimidating sight of an armed Conviction soldier.

### **In context Exerpts, Line 3:**

And she did need to thank Jake properly. Her mind was still flooded with images of what she would have had to do and endure on Hunter's 'night over'. She could practically taste his reek in her mouth.

With a look towards Alayna and Jonathan, just to assure herself the two of them would be fine for the next few minutes, Ellie turned back around. She jerked in surprise as she saw Jake, kneeling on one knee beside Hunter.

"I'll admit, I thought you would have had enough of a survival instinct to know not to pick a fight with someone armed, and armoured, in full battle kit. It seems I may have overestimated you." Ellie heard him say in a tone that rooted her to the spot. There was nothing aggressive or antagonistic about it, but there was something, laying beneath the words that was very, very cold.

"Then let me make this extremely clear, so I can be sure there are no misunderstandings." Ellie watched him lean in just a little closer, the two men's faces a hands breadth apart.

"If you come near any of those three again, or you pull some stupid stunt to try and collect on that 'debt' you were spouting off about, and I promise, no matter where you run on this little, *blip* of a planet, you won't make it to see the next sunrise."

Eyes that a moment ago were so full of friendliness and welcome, had turned hard and unforgiving. Jake's tone dripped with disdain. The switch was jarring, as his gaze silently promised a level of pain and violence that caused even Hunter to pause. Ellie felt a shiver run up her spine.

**In context Exerpts, Line 4:**

"I know it may be tempting to picture some spunky young rebels overthrowing a military-industrial complex, but the reality is something altogether different."

Alayna clearly wasn't happy with what Jake had to say. She crossed her arms over her chest and pointedly looked away.

"You don't know; it could happen." She griped.

"Naaw, what's the matter, did you want to run off and be a rebel?" Jake asked in good-natured ribbing as he delicately poked Alayna's shoulder.

"Going to fly around with a band of misfits and fight with the wind in your hair and a dramatic sunset in the background?"

Ellie couldn't help but let out a small smile which she promptly hid behind her empty cup. Alayna slapped Jake's hand away after the fourth or fifth poke and the two devolved into a back-and-forth. Alayna full of snark and Jake clearly enjoying getting a rise out of the young girl. Ellie also had to admit to a small amount of satisfaction at seeing Alayna meet her match somewhat. Jake wasn't intimidated by her and Alayna couldn't steamroll over him like she did most everybody else. It would be good for Alayna to learn how to deal with people besides just being louder than anyone else in the room.

## Legal:

Successful candidates will be granting perpetual, royalty free and uncredited use of their work for all commercial and marketing purposes in exchange for the compensation amounts listed above.

Candidates may share details of having worked on this project only after the expected launch date (May 1st 2023).

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