

LASTChancePUBLICATIONS

Warhammer 40,000

written

by

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Warhammer
40,000

The Fourth



Episode 16

In Episode 15...

"Guys! They've taken both our Artis, we have little power and our defences are down. Some of them will be heading back to intercept you."

We can't win a fight and if we both disengage they will cap us both. I'll keep them busy here. Go!...."

Headwire makes a break out of the enemy base thanks to his partners decision to keep the enemy busy, but how far will the young Ranger make it without backup?...

Kaio was fighting on instinct. He had slipped into combat form three, Kaijiki, and he didn't stay in one spot for more than half a second, zipping about the corridor faster than any shots could track him. His sniper rifle hitting its mark more often than not and when the combat got too close his pistol was put to deadly use.

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Through his rifle's scope Crying tracked Headwire sprinting away from the base. He had been ready to jump through the smoke into the battle in the corridor, assuming it simply a screen to stop him using his rifle at range. Then a Frag grenade had exploded almost next to him, mildly damaging him. From the trajectory he realised one of the Rangers was making a break, most likely the young Headwire. He lined up his crosshair with the head of his target

"Nice try" he said.

The air reverberated with a sniper rifle shot.

Crying dropped to the floor. Through the dissipating smoke Kaio watched him dematerialize and lowered his rifle from his eye.

"Start chucking smoke Kid, for snipers"

"Roger that" replied Headwire, completely oblivious.

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The numerous assault rifle shots and rocket blasts were starting to tell on Kaio's health and he was dangerously low on ammo. He saw the Juggernaut begin to line him up as a target.

"Might as well go out with a bang" he thought.

He broke into a sprint towards the Jugg. Dodging passed a Gunner he ran up the wall over and past a Ranger. He dodged off the wall just as a tank shot exploded into it, drew his grenade launcher and fired his last smoke grenade at the tank. He dodge boosted over the Techs and through the smoke, switching to his Shock Lance. He landed on the turret and was about to begin his assault on the Jugg, when he noticed the Gunner had got out. Obviously he decided being in a smoke blinded Jugg with a Ranger on the roof was not an advantageous position. Kaio allowed himself a split second laugh before he jumped through the hatch and into the turret.

Blue Gunners, Techs and Rangers couldn't get out of the way quick enough as Kaio's Tank shells thudded all around the corridor. His smoke screen was still in the air but he didn't need to see his targets, there was nothing but enemies out there.

"Just like old times" he thought then he called over the Comms, "You know Head, I'm actually starting to enjoy my decision to distract th.." He was cut short as the Juggernaut exploded from all the enemy fire.

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In the blue Artifact node room two Rangers entered at a steady jog.

"Artifact registered" the automated voice announced as Delacruz ran through the blue Artifact node. This message was immediately repeated again as Boockerr passed through just behind.

"Where's our last Artifact then?" Delacruz asked over the Comms as he and Boockerr began using their Medi-kits on each other, transferring energy to repair their damaged suits.

"One of their Rangers is running it up the left hill, won't get far, he's got four of our guys after him. Two more are at the red base waiting for him as well" the Tech replied.

"Sounds like we'll have to be quick if we want the glory Boock" Dela said, but Boockerr was already heading out the door.

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"Kaio, Headwire? Come in, what's the situation?" Chance asked over the Comms

"Head got out Chief; he'll have a few blues chasing him though"

"Headwire, did you make it out?" Chance asked over the Comms as he and Silver re-deployed at the red vehicle bay.

"Yea, thanks to Kaio" Headwire replied, sounding a little under pressure.

"What's your location? We'll pick you up in the Raptor"

"Um...I'm running up the left side hill, no the right side. Your right side. Towards Stronghold Gen."

"Affirmative, on our way. How many Blues are pursuing you?" Chance replied.

"A couple" was all Headwire offered.

"Head, I will get to you. Chance, I'm spawning at the front, will proceed on foot"

"Affirmative, Kaio be warned the enemy still has our front deploy, you *will* meet opposition"

"Acknowledged" he replied as he completed his Deploy at the front of the base and sprinted for the exit.

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At the back of the base, inside the vehicle bay the deployment point held Chance and Silver as they waited for the energy to recharge enough for another Deploy. As the seconds counted down they ran through what was to come.

"Stay in the turret 'till we get there, then your gonna have to jump out so Head can ride"

"No problem, shit why does this take so long. This is gonna be tight huh, how many you figure are chasing him?"

"Well he's showing on the radar now, and if they can return the Arti he's carrying then this battle is over. I think we gotta assume that most of them will give chase."

"Better get our boys together then too huh?" said Silver.

"Yea" said Chance "Cage, do you copy me?" Chance called over the team frequency. At the same moment the deployment points countdown reached zero and the Chance and Silver spawned in the vehicle bay.

"Roger Chance" replied Cage "We're about to disengage from this place"

"Well Headwire has an Artifact and he's making his way back here. If we can get him back we're still in with a shot." Chance said as they ran for the Raptor

"Its over Chance, it ended when Headwire went off on a glory hunt into their base and left us two short in mid" Cage replied sharply over the Comms. Chance and Silver had reached the Raptor and began climbing in.

"Cage, we might have lost the mid anyway, now we have an Arti, thanks to Headwire. We need to get it back here. He's not gonna make it if we don't back him up"

"So go back him up, over and out"

"He's bloody left" Chance said to Sliver as they strapped themselves in.

"Assholes" was all Silver offered in reply

Chance tried another "Dante, you read me?"

"Reading you" came the reply

"Well you know how Headwire went into the base on his own, leaving us a man down and all that. Well by chance he got an Arti out and now he's being chased out in the field." Chance let this hang, hoping for a response. "You read me Dante?" Silence, Chance looked at Silver

"Looks like The Four are on their own for this one" he said

"Just the way we like it" Silver replied. They lowered their windshields and Chance started the engine. Both men looked ahead grimly; they knew it would be hard to do anything effective without the rest of the team. Even if they got Head and the Artifact back to base they would swiftly be over run with their limited numbers.

"Not good" he thought

Just then Dante and Knight walked around the corner.

"He got one huh? So we gonna rescue the kid or what" Dante said with a smile

"Hop on lads" Chance said with a smile and the two Rangers jumped onto the Raptor bonnet and crouched down, hanging on to what ever they could. Chance could just see between and passed them enough to drive and he put his foot flat on the gas laughing as the Rangers jerked back under the force.

"Hey Dahmer, Brock." Dante called, we are going to get that Artifact back here. Your still with us right?"

"Not going anywhere Dante" was the reply, "Course we don't have enough power to register it or put up any defences."

"One problem at a time Dahmer" Dante said, "One problem at a time"

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Kaio passed out of the front of the red base and made all haste towards the right side hill, determined that no opposition would be enough to stop him reaching his second. Ahead of him at the Deploy-point were two blue Techs amid a wall of defences. Without hesitation he sprinted towards them and began firing with his sniper rifle. As his shot hit one of them they immediately moved behind a force-wall they had set up. A Force-wall was a fence with its bars made completely from geomagnetic energy, although there were gaps in the bars the concentrated energy did not allow anything to pass through it, as such the Techs were now fully protected from any incoming fire, as long as they stayed behind the wall.

Kaio continued sprinting, then with a round of beeps the blue turrets snapped into action. Dodging rockets and taking some assault turret fire Kaio drew his pistol with his left hand and kept his rifle in his right. Behind the wall the two Techs had their shotguns ready, as they watched him through the gaps in the force-wall's energy bars. Kaio could see them too; he took an extra step in his stride and leapt over the wall. Both Tech's shotguns fired at Kaio, a fraction of a second too slow. In mid air he crossed his arms, firing a rifle shot into the Tech on his left and simultaneously firing a secondary burst from his pistol into the Tech on the right. He landed as they dematerialised, swiftly he dodged to his right against a rock and trick jumped off it, past the turrets and up over the top of the cliff.

"Not enough opposition" He said aloud.

He ran over the top of the cliff, past and over rocks as the blue base came into view. Then he could see the track up the hill, then he could see Headwire.

"Chance" he called quite calmly

"Be there in twenty seconds Kaio" came the reply

"He doesn't have twenty seconds; the entire blue force is chasing him!"

In episode 12 of
8 ways to lose...

"I need backup damnit!....."

The battle for the last Arti begins...