



invasion6 Treatment

Existence to Extinction is just one small step.

By Richard F. Roszko

INVASION SIX, science fiction/adventure, takes place in the distant future where travel between planets is as common as flying between continents.

It hasn't been a good day for Lady Marshall Alianna Broxton. The construction of the new Imperium communications base on the frontier planet of Pirene is behind schedule. Sitting across from her, Ranor Broxton smiles as he listens to his wife. Waiting for the right moment, he tells her that he was promoted to Lord Commodore. He announces that they were chosen for the expeditionary force going to Lagarto Nebula. Their excitement is piqued, as this is their first mission together since they got married.

The illusion of the two being together fades as they finish talking and break communications. Ranor goes back to the command deck of the Battlecruiser Orius and Alianna walks out of her office on Planet Pirene. As Alianna enters into the central command dome, an urgent message comes from one of three space stations next to Pirene. An unknown craft is approaching the planet. Before the data can be analyzed, the signal abruptly drops out. Moments later, the second and third space stations send out battle alerts. Within a minute, the base on Pirene is being attacked. Alianna orders an evacuation, but it's too late, the base is decimated.

Ranor and his two battle cruisers are ordered by Lord High Admiral Nos Zeton to engage in a hastily prepared counterattack. He fails to convince the Admiral that these attacks are ill-conceived. Ranor mutters to himself that he would be joining Alinana in the afterlife soon.

He launches a massive missile barrage followed by a fighter attack using the computer-controlled unmanned Medusa units. The missiles plow into the solitary enemy craft but cause no damage. Seconds later, the Medusas engage the enemy. As the Medusas close in for the kill, the enemy craft explodes in a violent flash – sending out a pulse wave that washes over the whole area. The Medusas tumble out of control, dead in space. All communications fail. The command links to the Medusas are lost. The three cruisers can't even talk to each other, let alone send out any distress calls.

While the crews assess the damage, the Medusas come back to life and attack their own battle cruisers! Of the three battlecruisers in the melee, two get destroyed. Ranor's ship manages to escape into hyperspace. However, the hyperspace engines soon fail, stranding the ship far away from any habitable planets.

Ranor and the crew are forced to evacuate to Vrados 4, a planet with a toxic atmosphere. As luck would have it, they find a secret underground military research installation run by Lord Dr. Elli Morsto. The stranded crew learn the alien invaders have already compromised their entire communications system and are using that information to coordinate attacks to win battles.

Two shadowy figures walk into a bright room. Alianna and a handful of her crew are still alive on Planet Pirene! Third-Line Vom Rani reports that their command base was taken intact by the enemy. Alianna instructs Rani to find a way back to the base, recapture it, defeat the enemy, and send out a distress call - not in any particular order. Rani groans.



Back on Vrados 4, Ranor's salvaged AI unit from the ship uses her computing powers to reverse the trick the aliens played on them and uncovers a plan for an assault on Imperium Prime, the capital planet, just days away. The AI also locates the alien command base - it's on Planet Pirene - Alianna's old command post. Ranor is faced with a choice - go back to the Imperium and attempt to raise an assault force to wipe out the alien base, or take his remaining troops and attack the base himself.

On Pirene, Rani has found a way to get into their base undetected by using an underground mining tunnel. Not wasting any time, Alianna and her crew start their way into the tunnel. Several hazards meet the crew - carnivorous roots, lamprey-rodents and worst of all, their automated base set to kill any intruders.

Leaving Vrados 4, Ranor makes his decision to attack the alien command base on Planet Pirene with their new command ship, the Dreadnaught Hydrus and escort destroyers acquired from the research installation. In hyperspace, the crew learns from Jana that mysterious invasions occurred five times throughout the history of the 300-year-old Imperium.

On Pirene, Alianna and her crew make it to an auxiliary control center where they can monitor what's happening in the base. Problem - they can't regain control of the base until they destroy the main control center. Alianna sends Rani and crew to wipe out the main controls.

Dropping from hyperspace, the Dreadnaught Hydrus orbits Planet Pirene. The peaceful quiet only lasts a minute before the enemy defense system kicks in and converges on the Hydrus. The battle for Pirene begins.

Planetside, in the auxiliary control room, a crewman reports to Alianna that a space battle is taking place. Meanwhile, Rani and his men finish taking out the main control center and return to the auxiliary control room. With everything set, Alianna tries to contact the space task force attacking the planet.

In space, the battle is not going very well and Ranor is about to make a last-ditch effort to break orbit and go after the base on the planet. He receives a transmission from Alianna, but believing she's dead, he ignores the transmission. Only after a crewman verifies the authenticity of the feed, does Ranor react.

Ranor and Alianna are speechless for a few seconds that last an eternity. Snapping out of it, the two coordinate their weaponry and go after the aliens with new vigor. After a series of spectacular battles, Ranor and Alianna finally meet each other on the planet surface.

As fate would have it, the remnants of the enemy forces drop out of hyperspace and converge on the landed Hydrus. After a few frantic moments, the Hydrus takes off. As they gain altitude, additional enemy units join the hunt. After surviving everything so far, it looks like the Hydrus just won't make it. To make matters worse, another set of ships enters the fray from hyperspace.

The Hydrus is outmatched and outgunned; except, suddenly to the rescue - the last group entering the pitched battle is the home fleet commanded by Lord High Admiral Zeton. His fleet makes mincemeat out of the enemy and rescues the Hydrus. After the final battle, they all meet at the base and compare notes. Just like the preceding five invasions, no trace of the mysterious attackers remain. As the sun sets, Ranor and Alianna walk out into a field and look up toward the Lagarto Nebula.