Forward Unto Dawn

I am

Commander
Cadet

Thomas Lasky
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HALO 4
FORWARD UNTO DAWN

Faint transmission...

This is UNSC FFG 201
Forward Unto Dawn
Requesting immediate evac.

Survivors aboard.
Priority Code: Victor Zero Five
DASH Three DASH
Sierra One One Seven

Mayday
Mayday
Mayday
Transmission coming through louder but with static...

This
UNSC FFG 201
Forward Unto Dawn
Requesting immediate evac.

Survivors aboard.

Priority Code:
Victor Zero Five
DASH Three DASH
Sierra One One Seven

Mayday
Mayday
Mayday

Garbled bridge communications mixed with distress signal.

Uploading the coordinates, tracking the frequency.

We have a lock.

Play it again please.

Sir.

SIR.

Commander Lasky?
Training Cryo Tube seal breaks

Ugh, ugh...

Lasky, you coming? Tom?

Yeah, I'll be right there.

Hastati Squad four minutes to rendezvous

Lasky walks outside of the cryo room.

Ugh, so bright. Hard to see.

Lasky, come on!

Unit starts double timing it.
Gunfire erupts.

50 seconds

15 seconds.

Silva? Lasky? Where are you guys?

zhuuoom...

Sullivan is hit.

SULLY!

CASUALTY SULLIVAN
Enemy inbound, they’ll be on us in 30 seconds.

Prepare to attack. Our objective is to neutralize the insurrectionists.

The Innies never surrender.

We should flank them and force a surrender.

15 seconds.

We can make it.
It's our best move.

We're sticking to my plan.

It won't work.

You're not in charge anymore Lasky. They're my orders.

I don't care.

Five seconds!

AXIOS!!!
Hastati Squad Leader on the Field. Exercise paused.

Let me guess Lasky, you ignored orders.

Just another strategic casualty, sir.

Unacceptable.

Shoulder your weapon cadet. You kept Hastati from achieving it's objective. Again...

Exercise complete. Hastati defaults.
Yeah, once from two meters, twice from one.

I'm always numb.

Did she tag you?

I'm still numb from the shot.

Vrooom!

Hastati! Port Arms!
Let me remind you cadets, this academy bears the name Gnaeus Domitius Corbulo. Because he represent Honor, Valor, Allegiance.

Axios. I am worthy.

Today you have proven to be anything but.

General Corbulo took his own life in the name of the empire. He did not hesitate, nor question. He loyally obey, screaming Axios as he fell upon his own sword.

The insurrectionists want us all dead. Had this been a real firefight, the rebels would have likely killed every member of Hastati squad.

You were sent here because your parents are members of the upper echelon of the UNSC. Because, all of you are it’s future. And I expect you to act like it.
Squad marching at double-time.

~One early morning passed zero-five.~

Garbled cadence song, then...

~Hell Jumper Hell Jumper where you been?~

Various gruntling sounds from physical activity.

~Feet First Into Hell and Back again.~

~Hell Jumper Hell Jumper where you been?~

~Feet First Into Hell and Back again.~
~When I die please bury me deep.~

~When I die please bury me deep.~

~With my MA5 down by my feet.~

~With my MA5 down by my feet.~

Lasky runs in last place out of breath...
Various conversations in the barracks.

No seriously, I'm onto something.

The comms are messed up, I'm decoding something kick ass.

Are they hiding stuff from us?

I'm positive of it.
Stop stepping on our dicks Lasky.

I'm trying to survive here, okay?

You need to respect chain of command. The UNSC isn't the enemy. The Innies are.

Spoken like a true believer.

At least I believe in something.

Over intercom: Cadet Thomas Lasky report to Colonel Mehaffey's office.
Various grunts and cadence songs in background.

You two go there. You over there...

Space elevator car swooshes upward.
Audio log:
We're sticking to my plan.
It won't work.
They're my orders.
I don't care.

Pause.
You don't care?
You do realize your helmet transmits everything?

No excuse sir.

You continue pulling down your squad you're going to earn a lot of enemies.

Yes sir.

I served under you mother, Colonel Lasky. She won't let a son of hers leave here without a diploma.

I wouldn't know what my mother thinks. I never see her.

You know Thomas, I've seen a lot of cadets come through here. Many have suffered like you. A pain like that can not be forgotten, but you can learn how to tolerate it.

I'll do my best sir.

That will be all.

Dr.: How long have you had those blisters?
Lasky: On and off for a few weeks, these are from yesterday.
Dr.: Well, we keep an eye on them. Cryo training can take it's toll.
Axios...
Am I worthy?
Should I be here?
INSURRECTIONISTS KILL DOZENS IN ATTACK ON CIVILIAN SPACEPORT

TROISI CITY, LODESTONE, - 24 MARCH 2626

INSURRECTION REPRESENTATIVES ARE CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEADLY BOMB ATTACK YESTERDAY ON A LODESTONE SPACEPORT USED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY CIVILIAN PASSENGERS. INITIAL CASUALTY REPORTS OF 13 DEAD AND 47 WOUNDED HAVE RISEN TO 26 FATALITIES AND 64 SEVERELY INJURED AS OF UPLOAD TIME. HUNDREDS MORE HAVE BEEN TREATED AND RELEASED BY AREA HOSPITALS FOR SMALLER INJURIES AND SMOKE INHALATION.

OFFICIALS SAY THE BOMB WAS CARRIED INTO THE SPACEPORT IN A DUFFLE BAG. BUT AT THIS TIME THEY ARE RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW IT EVASED PORT SECURITIVY WHEN ASKED IF THE TERRORISTS WERE BOMBING THE BASE, THEY REFUSE TO ANSWER.

BANDUSA INSURRECTION DEFEATED

NEW HARMONY, MARS - 2 APRIL 26

UNSC WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENTS STOPPED A TERRORIST DUO AT ONE OF MARS' MOST POPULATED CITIES.

CHRISTINA RICE AND JAMES MCCANN WERE SPOTTED AT NEW HARMONY SPACEPORT TRAVELING WITH DOCUMENTATION AND DISGUISED AS ARMY SPY SOURCES ASKING FOR ANONYMITY HAVE SUGGESTED THE DUO WERE TASKED WITH STEALING HYPERION-CLASS WARHEADS FOR USE IN A POTENTIAL ATTACK ON THE EARTH. UNSC BRASS WERE QUICK TO SAY THOSE RUMORS UNFOUNDED.
You really shouldn't be looking at that stuff Sully.

SCORE!

Garbled communications mixed with distress signal.

Your test scores are great...

Ugh.

However, your combat scores
Finally some personal time.

What's my brother up to these days?
Hey little bro. It's day 131 of deployment.

Mom's going to flip when she sees this, but whatever.

It's still a little raw, but we got a big drop on an innie stronghold next week and I wanna get it done before then.

A heh...

Anyway...

Silva interrupts.

You haven't been court marshalled yet? I'm not apologizing.

Yes you are.

At least I believe in something?

I do! What do you believe in?

Just not in stupid orders that lead to needless violence.

Negotiating isn't an option.

For overtaxed farmers?

Farmer? That's who you think they are? You have no idea what the innies are like.

I have a pretty good idea!
Can you blame them?

Yeah, and you should too.

Silva walks out.

Ah, being safe, doing my job. Do your job, and oh, nice checkmate bro...yet again

New game, your move. And hang in there. Mom loves you, so do I.

Miss you buddy.

Miss you too.
Lights out. Doors closing.

Slooshhhhh....

CLAMP!
PREVAIL. FORWARD UNTO DAWN.
FROM EARTH, FOR EARTH. HONOR,
VALOR, ALLEGIANCE, EXCELLENCE.
EARTH, FOR EARTH. TODAY.
Static noise on computer screen. Screen goes silent.

Ssswwwwoooo

....yhhhhh

...SSSSS
Hi, I’m Sal, the owner of HaloFanForLife.com. I’m very excited to be able to bring you this “unofficial” graphic novel of the Forward Unto Dawn webisode live-action series.

It’s been a long time in coming, but now we finally have some live-action that is more than just a commercial. With 343 Industries vision, we see the beginnings of the Human-Covenant war through the eyes of Thomas Lasky. In Halo 4 he is the executive officer of the UNSC Infinity. However, in this series we pick up on his life during his cadet training in what will soon be a huge wake up call of not only him, but the UNSC and humanity in general.

This is the first of six graphic novels I’ll be creating from the webisodes. If you have any questions about the episode, see something I might have missed or any inaccuracies I made, PLEASE feel free to send me an e-mail and I’ll address them as quickly as possible.

In some case I have changed the spoken lines to fit within the pages. Not enough that it changes the story though.

Once again, thanks for reading through, up next episode two!

-Sal (HFFL)
Owner/Blogger
HaloFanForLife.com
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We've been floating aimlessly in space for 1651 days, 6 hours, and 19 minutes.

Over 4 years aboard this ship with nothing to do.
For four years, nothing to do but think.

All I've done is think.
What are you dreaming there?

Hearbeat tones in the background.
Klaxon sounds!
The Robot's going to be pissed.

Shut up Sully!

Go go go,
Get there quick.

Wake up Hastati!

Why are you stopping. Are you waiting for your fancy mommy to come and finish it for you? Move it, faster.
Get there quick!

Are you tippy toeing?

That looked like slow motion to me.

Don't like being up at 0400?

Tomorrow it will be 0300.
Weapons Check!

Weapons Check!

Weapons Check!

Weapons Check!
Cadet, CADET, you're already dead son.

Orlen, Cadet Silva's time?

51.07 seconds

Not good enough today, Cadet Vickers.

I believe Cadet Silva's record is just shy of the academy's record, held by Cadman Lasky.

Now that was a REAL soldier. A soldier that did not give up.

Tomorrow you will engage in the last major exercise of this term.

Hastati's squad future at this academy will depend on it's performance.
Thank you for your message father. (translated from Chinese)

I received top marks today during a combat exercise.
SCORE!

Where did you get this?

DIMA!

You could get in a lot of trouble.
You can't tell your mom about this, okay?

I won't say anything.
Cadet Vickers.

Yes Sir?

You realize you and Lasky are the reason I had to run the tour yesterday with you noobs? And why we all had to get up at 0400.

Yes sir.

So as you can imagine I’m pretty hungry. And I do love this academy’s quiche.
So hand them over, both of you!

With such a renowned pedigree, I expected you to be a better soldier Lasky.

Sir

You're dismissed.
Must be tough on your mom, knowing her real son’s never coming home.

Whoah, Lasky and Vickers!

Various conversations crescendos.

CHOCK!

CRACK!!

BOOF!!
CRACK!!
PUNCH!!

Come on Lasky!

UGH...

More violent punches being thrown.
Officer on Deck!

Talking ceases.
Ugh...

Outside!
What the hell is wrong with you?

ANSWER ME!

Nothing sir.

Well maybe there's hope for you yet.

Sir?
There's a soldier in you Thomas. I can see it. Everyone can see it. YOU need to see it. I know your brother did.

Yes sir.

Now go get yourself cleaned up before class.

AXIOS!
Hey Bro. Hello from Arcadia. The jungles of Arcadia. So what am I supposed to tell you?

Tell him how you got your nickname!
No, I'm not...

small scuffle...

Okay, I'll tell him.

You're not going to believe this. So we make a drop in the rainforest. We see this river, me and the boys, we decide to take a dip.

Ridge warns us all not to drink the water. Of course, first thing I do is get a mouthful.

I almost threw up in my body suit, a couple times. So now they call me volcano.

Various background laughter.

Chants of CANO! CANO! CANO!

Sniff SNIFF...
The Pincer movement. A strategy used in Earth's second Punic War against the Roman Republic at the battle of Cannae.

Orlen begin.

Lesson beginning.

Red represents the Romans troops, Blue Hannibal's.

Hannibal placed his spearman and slingers at the front.

Behind them his swordsmen, flanked by cavalry.
When the Romans attacked, Hannibal’s swordsman retreated.

For the Romans that seemed to be due to their force, but in reality Hannibal had ordered the retreat. As the Romans continued to drive the swordsmen back, Hannibal’s calvary galloped in from behind.

Once the attacking pincers connected, the Romans were completely surrounded.

This is an actual strategy?
The Roman's outnumbered Hannibal's troops by over 10,000 strong and yet they were defeated.

Why?

Hubris.

Never underestimate your enemy. Never underestimate what they will sacrifice for victory.

Questions?
Yeah, how do we apply this?

Yeah, we don't have horses.

True we don't, but what do we have instead?

ODSTs!

Exactly, they drop behind enemy lines, attack from the rear, neutralize

Or die trying.

The question is as old as war itself. If someone is trying to kill you, are you not to rise against him, and kill him first?
You were hangin on her every word.

Why wouldn't I?

I just hear the endless drumbeat of war, and that doesn't make me an Innie lover.

Look, you want people to change? You want this war to end?

Of course.

Then you're going to need people follow you.
Tomorrow, Hastati squad will try not to embarrass itself, yet again.

You are a unit. Your lives are in each other's hands.

This morning's victor, Cadet Silva, knows it, because her parents gave the ultimate sacrifice and died on the battlefield.

That success tomorrow on the field will not just be for our honor, but for those who have fallen so YOU can be here.
Thundering in the background.

All Cadets Please be advised, new mandatory curfew tonight at 2100.

Garbled transmission follow by Threat Level Red…

Vrooom!
Lasky taps twice on the wall next to him. Silva responds by tapping back.
Final combat exercise of this term, Hastati versus Zuma.

Cadets bustling about getting ready for the morning's exercise.
Cadets, prepare for Cryo injections.

squirt..
At-ten-tion!

Today's mission is to capture the flag. I expect a better outcome then last time.

Permission to speak SIR.

Speak

I'd like to take point sir.
Okay Lasky, let’s see if you still got it in you.

But for your sake you better hope you can pull some magic out of you ass, or you’ll be running tour the rest of the year.

Understood sir.
Various coughing.

Hhiissss....

Hastati squad one
minute to R.V. point.
On my mark. Three. Two.
One. MARK.
Various shouts.

Cover!

No sign of Zuma.

Let's go, move move move.

Zuma's out there, watch your backs.

At R.V. point.
Equal numbers, deadlocked terrain.

What's your plan?

We're waiting.
Why are we just sitting here? If we have equal numbers we should just fight it out.

Yeah, just be patient.

crazy freak.

Okay, their moving. Take off your helmet.

What? That's pretty wild card Lasky.

We'll be flying blind.

Trust me.
Alright, flank them.

They're all together.
Found them.

Huh?.

UGH!

OHHH!

OWWW!
BRraappP!!

BRraappP!!

BRraappP!!

NOW!
Lasky breathes heavily.

Heah...

Heah...

HEAH...

LASKY!!!
Responses to the first graphic novel as well as my 6-part review of Forward Unto Dawn episode one were positive. I got one in particular that stood out. It was from none other than Stewart Hendler himself, the director of the Forward Unto Dawn series. He tweeted this to me after reading the review:

-Stewart Hendler @stewarthendler
@HaloFanForLife this is amazing!

-Chris Salerno @HaloFanForLife
@stewarthendler Thank you SIR! If you like that, you may like the

-Sal (HFFL)
Owner/Blogger
HaloFanForLife.com
HALO 4
FORWARD UNTO DAWN
Episode Three
343 INDUSTRIES

INVASION!
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Cortana?

I hate you.

Stop it!

I've made up my mind.

If I'm to die aboard this ship, then chief will suffer the same fate as me.

Cortana stop.

You sacrificed everything for him.

Control yourself.

I can't.
This isn’t right, something is...ugh.

Cortana stop.

Control yourself.

Chief!
Something slowed us down.

Something... Interesting.

I need to think.

Thinking is what's killing you.
What happened?

You passed out during a training exercise.

My chest feels like it's on fire.

Turns out the cryo blisters and your difficulty breathing are an allergic reaction to the Cytoprepolene.

It's a drug we inject to keep your ice crystals from forming in your cells during cryo sleep.

Occurs in 1 of every 50,000 or so.

So I won't be able to breath every time I wake up from cryo sleep.

The intensity of your allergy is still undetermined. I'll know more in a few hours.

I want you to take it real easy, the rest of the day today.

Yes sir. Thanks
I'm on Endicia, it's a jump away from home.

Hey bro.

Today uh...496

I'm sorry I didn't Com yesterday. I got pinned in a firefight for seven hours yesterday.

Mom would be proud.

Uh, I must have killed a dozen Innies though.

We're doing real good work here. We're doing a good thing.

Ridge didn't make it. You remember Ridge from back home.

He was right there next to me then...wasn't.

A pineapple* saw him fly in four different directions.

I had to shave it all off for Ridge. He said it made me look tough.

Anyway uh, I gotta go bro.

I can't wait to get home.

Cadman out.

* Pineapple is a slang term for a grenade.
What are you doing?

Why do you torment yourself with these?

Are you okay?

Whoah?

I've been better.

What did Dr. Hughes say?

Nothing.

Really?

You know we won today. It stressed you out.

No it's just me, being a leader.
Lasky, wake up! Oh hey, Chyler.

What's up Sully?

Get in here, you guys gotta see this.

You look like crap.

So feast your eyes on grade "A", classified vids I pieced together.

Super pain in the ass to do, but so worth it.
Various comm chatter
This is beyond top secret.

I've never seen something so encrypted, but I cracked it.
Wow!

It's crazy huh?

TARGET LOCATED.

Wait wait wait. Now here comes the best part.

Watch his hand.

TARGET ACQUIRED.

That thing is like two feet taller than a marine.

They're coming. They're coming.
Alright, check this out.

Squad we have an unknown hostile.

Going back, go back. Go back.

Now who do you think they're running from?

Are they fighting together?

Okay now here comes the best part.

Watch, watch this.

What is that thing?

It is now 1800, all cadets report to the mess hall.
What do you think that things was?

Definitely not an ODST.

Well what could it be?

Maybe some upgraded ODST armor.

Pew pew.

Come on, did you not see the size of that thing?

That's not ODST.

Guys you're missing the point. What matters is our soldiers were fighting alongside the Insurrectionists.

Cadet Lasky, Colonel Meahffey would like to see you.
How are you feeling?

My chest burns sir, quite a bit.

This is for you. Seems like you have a choice to make Thomas.

I don't understand sir.

It appears Dr. Hughes's tests have revealed that the level of your allergy to Cytoprepolene is serious enough to warrant a medical discharge.

If you feel that you are unfit for service, all you need to do is sign it and bring it to the tether.
When would I leave?

Tomorrow.

Tomorrow?

You know Thomas, your memories and choices are all you have left. At the end of the game, the King and the Pawn go in the same box. You have to decide what you're willing to sacrifice.

Axios.

Axios!
Thomas, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you that your brother Cadman was shot down on Endicia.

All of his squad perished.

I've been told it was a quick and painless death. There are no remains to bury.

with this in mind I have decided you shall...

Comm trails off

Colonel Lasky out.
Lasky, move over I gotta show you something.

No, now's not a good time.

It's important.

Now what the hell is that? Hmm?

Whoah

Bzzzttttt...

It's offline.

I'm screwed man, it's ONI. They must have flagged those comms.

I gotta talk to Dima.

DIMA DID YOU TELL YOU'RE MOM?
Chyler?

Birds chirping in the distance.

Hey.

Thought I'd give your spot a try.

That com didn't make any sense. Hitting the Innies is all I've known. Did you tell Mehaffey about it?

No. no.
What's that?

Apparently I'm allergic to war.

Yeah, tomorrow if I sign it.

I don't know.

What does this mean? You're leaving.

Are you going to?

Chyler...

It's okay, I know you don't want to be here. I just thought...that maybe...I'll miss you.
BASE ALARM RINGS LOUDLY.

What is that?

All cadets report to the tether.
To the tether.

GO!

This is NOT a drill!

Let's go, let's go. MOVE!

Go to your squads. NOW!

Keep moving cadets.
The rest of the squad's already at the tether, let's go.

PLEASE REMAIN CALM

Hastati, this way. Hurry up.

Lasky, Chen, let's go. Okay hold tight, stay in line.

What is this, Insurrectionists?

I have no idea.
Choooonk! crack...

What the?

Why are ODSTs dropping here?

Because we're under attack.
REMAIN CALM

This is not good.

ODSTs dropping in is NEVER good.

Screw this, I can get us on this wagon.

No, we will hold our position.

Guys come on.

No Tchakova, that is a direct order.

Suit yourself.

Dima.

DIMA!

Get back in line, right NOW!
Return to your squad cadet.

I'm getting on this wagon.

It's FULL, wait for the next one.

My mother is Secretary of FLEETCOM. Your choice marine.

This is taking to long April, maybe we should bum rush like Dima.

No no, we'll be fine.
Zhooommm...
Zhooommm...
Zhooommm...
What the hell are those things?
GO!

Boom!!

crashh!!

Screams from cadets fill the halls.
Lasky is breathing heavily as he falls.

Explosions sound off in the distance.

TOM?
Gunfire erupting

Oh my god, what is that?

Alien language heard getting closer.

Brrappp!!

Sshiiinkk!!

Heavy footfalls from Alien.

Alien shuts something unintelligible.
People screaming as they fall from the sky. Bodies crash on top of the building.

**THUD!**

**THUD!**

Come on, come on, run!

NEXT ON

**FORWARD UNTIL DAWN**
I had two “awesome” replies from two 343 folks. First was Jessica Shea, better known as BS Angel:

The next from Josh Holmes, Halo 4 Creative Director at 343.

Also, Stewart Hendler (Director of the Forward Unto Dawn series) again replies:

He also said this of my reviews:

-Sal (HFFL)
Owner/Blogger
HaloFanForLife.com
HALO 4
FORWARD UNTO DAWN
ARRIVAL
SURVIVAL!
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I don't recognize...

I can't remember...

so much of myself.

Pfffiss...
I'm lost.

I'm scared.
WARNING!

Who's there?

It appears to be an alien construct.

The data confirms it was not built by the Covenant.

No need for more analyzing.

We're in danger
Various screams and shouting, continued gunfire

Incoming!

BOOM!!!

shiiikkkk

Come on!

brap brap

shiiinkkk
Get to the door, go!

Colonel Mehaffey!

GO GO GO GO!

shiinkkk

Ooohh!
Elite speaking something untranslatable.

BOOM!!!

brap

brap

Wot chit chit

brap brap
The doors are locked!

Over here in Lasky's room.

Come on, come on!
Oh my god, Dima, she's dead!

Colonel Mehaffey...

Yeah, well we will be to if we don't do something.

Comms are offline.

Ahhh!!!

It's a whole new war.

That sounded close!
Elite growls something untranslatable.

Slliiicccceeeeee!!!!!
It's invisible!

How the hell's it invisible?

One of those things is inside and it's invisible!

What?

GROWL

THUD THUD

Ah aaaaah!

We gotta get out of here.
We're gonna go to the training room and get some weapons.

I'll take point.

Okay, come on, line up.

Tell us when.
Glass breaks...

NOW!

It's crazy huh?

Grrroowwlll!

REPORT TO SPACE TETHER FOR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION

What? What is it?
Shink!

Guys?

JJ!
Oh my gawd!

Go go go!

thrump...
Lasky, send a distress beacon.

Chyler, help me get the weapons.

My code isn't working!

Lasky door.

Yeah, I'm trying!

LASKY DOOR!

Door closes.

Phhssshhh...

April come on!
Mayday mayday.

This is Cadet Thomas Lasky.

There's been an attack on Corbulo academy, Excessive casualties.

I REPEAT excessive casualties.

I don't have access to the live rounds.

We're dead.

Okay, okay think.

We can't stay in here April.

We can't go out THERE!
crunch...

Come on Vickers!

Harder!

BAM!!!
The Elite roars behind door.

A chilling quiet descends on the room only punctuated by the rapid short quiet breaths of the terrified cadets.

BOOM!!

CLANG!!
CRASH!

shhh...

Vickers takes short gulping breaths.

Elite is breathing heavily.
Sully whispers:

Lasky go for the door.

I can't leave Vickers.

Where is it?

It's right here.

sploosh.....
Garble alien language coming over comm.

Elite says something...
HEY!

Guys, RUN!!
Elite garbling in own language.

ssizzzzllle...

Ha ha HA!
SHANK!!

shlooop...
Master Chief's heavy footfalls...

We don't have much time. Let's GO.
Kelly, inform command I have four survivors. Take your team north.

Rendezvous at evac Alpha for Pelican extraction. We'll meet you there.

Chief out.

How'd you find us?

A distress beacon.
Why did you come for us?

You're the only survivors.

In the school?

On the PLANET.
We've got 15 minutes to get to the evac point.

It's locked.

Armor up!

Bam!

RIPPP!!!

CLANK!!!
Chief's heavy footfalls continue down the hallway.

Various electrical conduits phizzle.

Stay quiet.
Do not leave, no matter what you here outside.

Wait, who are you?

Call me Master Chief.
I knew those ONI* vids were bad news.

Now we're the only ones alive.

What the hell is going on?

Sully...

Who knows if he's even coming back?

He's gonna come back. I believe him.

We're all following a giant robot.

*Office of Naval Intelligence
Heavy footfalls approach the cadets.

Thud

THud

THUd
Who's the best shot here?

You probably?

Chyler is.

I'm good.

I am too.
Cadet Lasky, can you drive a Warthog?

Yes, sure.

Good, that's where we're headed.

Shooters on the left and right, driver in the center.

Stay close to me, it's your best chance of survival.
Come on!

Where did they all go?

Ah-oohhh!!!

shiiinkk

peeewwwwwhhhhhhh

shatter!
brap!

sustained weapons fire...

brap!

GET DOWN!

shiiinkk

brap!

shiiinkk
Get to the hog, I'll draw their fire!

More gunfire...

CHIEF!
Lasky go!

Cover me!

Shhoooooommm

Shiink

brap!

brap!

Stay low, stay low!
Ugh....

thud...
Chyler, I'm out. Hand me Sully's.

Engine won't turn over

Ugh, come ON!
brap! brap!
click...

continued Covenant gunfire...

Ugh
Warthog engine finally turns over amidst constant gunfire.

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

shiiinkk
Come on, let's go Sully!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!
GO!

Come on Chyler!
Josh Holmes, Halo 4 Creative Director at 343, had this to say of last week’s graphic novel:

I was honored by HaloWaypoint.com for my 1st FUD graphic novel:

Stewart Hendler, Director of Forward Unto Dawn series:

Alex Puccinelli, the voice of young Master Chief said this:
DAWN OF A NEW ERA
HaloFanForLife.com presents the “Forward Unto Dawn” unofficial graphic novel. Used with permission as per Microsoft rules, as stated at bottom.

This is the fifth in a 6-part series that follows the early adventures of Thomas Lasky, the future executive officer aboard the UNSC Infinity.

Special thanks to the crew at 343 Industries for making the live action series a reality. Thanks to the cast and crew of the webisode production for creating a quality series for which all Halo fans can be proud of.

This graphic novel is a labor of love to all of my fellow Halo fans. It's not an official piece, however I hope that you will enjoy it for what it is. This is the fifth of six graphic novels I will be creating over the length of the series.

If you liked it, please comment on my blog at: HaloFanForLife.com or follow me on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/HaloFanForLife or subscribe to my page on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/halofanforlife11

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Alarm sounding loudly.

Wake me when you need me, he said.
Vroommm

Tires screeching. Sullivan screaming out in pain.

Lasky!

Ahhhhh...

It's harder than it looks.
You doing fine, just keep it steady.

Bear right cadet, there's an exit dead ahead.

Faster Cadet, we have four minutes to get off the planet.
High pitched shriek from incoming sticky grenade.
Uhhhh!

BOOM!!!
Controlled bursts, don't spray and pray!

Cadet, two-o'clock

rat tat tat!!!

brap brap brap
Kelly, track our position for evac.

I think we're clear.

Rarghhhh....

Nice job.

THUMP splatter!
Everyone okay?
Hand me the biofoam and man the gun.

This will help you walk.
p-shhhhss

BOOP  BOOP  BOOP

Chyler breathes heavily.

Tom.

Come on!
Jackals heard in the distance.

TOM!

Arghhhhh

Chief! Chief! Chyler's been hit!
Various distant Jackals growling.

We have to get her to the Pelican.

Heavy footsteps heard in the distance.

They're retreating. Why would they do that now?
We're being hunted.

Keep moving north, you'll see my team.

Run as fast as you can and don't stop for anything, including me.

Chief's footfalls heard heading away.

I'll try.

Can you walk?

Just keep breathing. Hang in there, okay?

Croaaawill!

Oh my gawd!
Sully, you with us?

Hang in there Chyler.

Yeah.

April, stun rounds.

This will numb the pain.

cough
cough
cough
squirf

Hang in there Chyler.

Chyler has labored breathing...
It's okay, Tom.

I'm sorry.
No no no no

Chyler

sob, sob....
Footfalls approach.

I need your ammo cadets. It took everything I had to bring that thing down.

We don’t have any.

Just stun rounds sir.

I’m sorry.

Lasky hands over a frag grenade to Mater Chief.

You have to leave her Tom.
There!

Kel-ly, stay there. Need more time. Can not make it to the rendezvous.

You have to hold the Pelican. I WON'T leave them!

Chief out.
I'll engage, get to the Pelican as fast as you can.

No sir! I'll be the decoy.

Lasky no!

Cadet.

You sweep him from behind.
Lasky, no!

AXIOS!
GRAWR!
ZHOOOOO

Lasky!

GRAWR!
Chief's heavy footfalls as he starts to run.
THUNK!!
swooshhh
THUD!
clink
clank
clink
clank

GRAWR!
GRAWR!

BOOM!

pit... pit... pit...
screechhh

THUD!!!

sploosh
Lasky. Lasky!

Lasky!

Bring it down Kelly.

Come on. Come on.
Pelican is heard flying overhead.

SHHOOOOMMMM
We have three survivors.

I've alerted command.

Let's go.

Garbled communication coming from Pelican.
Kelly Spartan-087 takes her helmet off.
Fred Spartan-104 takes his helmet off.
How old are all of you?

That's classified.
Chief hands over dog tags to Lasky.
Well done, soldier.
Faint alarm heard.

Shall I play it again sir?

No, that won’t be necessary.

The Captain has ordered us into emergency slipspace protocol.

Prepare for Cryo.
Alarms sound off.

Text scrolling across screens.
CONTINUE THESE EVENTS IN

HALO 4.

AT RETAILERS NOW NOW!
Well here we are already. These past five weeks went by WAY too fast. I’ve enjoyed creating these graphic novels and I hope you’ve found some entertainment from it as well.

Since last issue, I’ve had parts 2 and 3 featured on HaloWaypoint.com. I’ve also had the pleasure of being on English podcast “Dust and Echoes.” (http://www.daeodcast.com/)

Through the exposure I was honored to receive through HaloWaypoint my blog has gained an unprecedented amount users and traffic. As I stated in the podcast, I do not do this for numbers. I do it for the love of Halo.

However, I do want to take the time to thank all of you. Be you long time followers of the blog or new to it. Know that it is greatly appreciated and I’ll continue to bring you great new Halo content for a long time, should you decide to stick with me.

I also want to say a special thank you to the cast and crew of Forward Unto Dawn. This is an amazing project and has changed the face of Halo as well as web series for good. We can only hope this will bring about a live-action movie.

And last but most certainly NOT least, I want to thank everyone at 343. You have truly coalesce into a team. It shows in the game as well as they way you present yourselves publicly.

As a Halo fan for life, I thank you. I’m sure MANY of my fellow Halo fans would agree.

-Sal (HFFL)
Owner/Blogger
HaloFanForLife.com