

Halo Episode Guide

Episodes 001-016

Last episode aired Thursday March 14, 2024



RISE
FROM
THE
FALL

HALO
NEW SEASON STREAMING
FEBRUARY 8

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Season One

Contact

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Thursday March 24, 2022
Writer:	Steven Kane, Kyle Killen
Director:	Otto Bathurst
Show Stars:	Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars:	Ryan McParland (Adun), Julian Bleach (Mercy), Sarah Ridgeway (John's Mother), Duncan Pow (John's Father), Olivia Liu (Faaz), Hayley Canham (Cara), Zachary Hing (Neru), Felipe Gabriel Mariano (Malchin), Jamie Beamish (Kaidon), Dávid Csányi (Colonel Stacker), Nneka Okoye (Djanka), Chan Woo Lim (Flight Tech Doan), Johnny K. Palmer (Control Tech Ladi), Ian Pirie (Professor), Jennifer Li (Karla Walter), Shaun Aylward (Esso), Miklós Béres (Sentry), Karen Gagnon (Juric), Gabrielle Glaister (Erika Wize), Casper Knopf (Young John), Jeonghwan Kong (Jin Ha), Francisco Labbe (David Agnoli), Mirjam Novak (Tesic), Hans Peterson (Ops Tech Pereira), Miranda Wilson (Penma), Sky Yang (Ruben)
Summary:	In the year 2552, humans on the planet Madrigal fight for independence from Earth, but a fatal encounter with the Alien Covenant complicates things; Master Chief John 117 and his super-soldier "Spartans" join the fight.



On the episode premiere, we see inhabitants on Planet Madrigal, a tier 4 heavy water extraction planet. Vinsher Grath was on the television ranting about "Spartans" arriving to crush his people. He was assigned to peace negotiations. The folks spoke of the rumors of unstoppable super-human Spartan soldiers.

General Jin Ha's daughter, Kwan, often slips outside of the outpost to explore with friends. She posted a strange ship, then light flashes inside a cave, and before she could dart back to the compound, the group was violently attacked by laser weapons- blasting bodies

to pieces! Kwan sho off a signal flare and the General commanded his people to seal the pipes and get their weapons.

Kwan just barely got through the gates and tried to warn her father of the attackers but he wasn't listening. The army of settlers waited in silence then was attacked by an alien army! Kwan got out of hiding with the other children to help her father who got pinned under a truck. One of the aliens discovered the children hiding and opened fire upon them. General Jin got loose and fired on the alien but it had forcefield-like bulletproof armor.

Suddenly, everyone paused because they spotted a ship. A being dropped out of the aircraft... it was the Spartans who they assumed to be at war with! Jin tried to attack the soldier yet he flipped over both his and the alien's head to blast him. The soldier was Master Chief and he nodded to Jin that he wasn't opposing him, but the aliens. The rest of Master Chief's team arrived to help fight off the aliens. Their weapons penetrated the foreign Covenant Elite Soldiers easily. They wiped all of the aliens out.

Jin was happy to see Kwan still alive and hiding under a truck. However, a wounded alien was approaching her so Jin fired on it. The monster grabbed him and slowly jabbed his laser sword inside him. Master Chief finished the alien off, saving her. Hundreds of people were killed, Kwan was the lone survivor.

Master Chief and the Silver Team scoured the area for the Covenant Elite Soldier's ship and investigated the cave they were initially spotted inside. They found evidence of excavation and recovered a floating object. An alien was hidden and drew its weapon to fire upon them but didn't. When Master Chief grabbed the relic it lit up the whole cave then he had a vision of a kid playing. Chief was pulled back to his senses and they spotted the lone alien who fled. While dashing, it turned on an invisible cloak and ran into Kwan, knocking her out, got to its ship, and flew away.

Master Chief commanded his team to fly home separate from himself while he towed the mysterious object and Kwan back to his home planet of Reach.

Dr. Catherine Halsey previewed Chief's footage of the cave. Admiral Margaret Parangosky interrupted her to inform her that the security council will cut her funding of the Spartans for the massacre. Halsey explained the melee was the Covenant's ill-doing and her soldiers saved one girl and recovered a totem. Parangosky scolded Halsey about another program she halted... a clone of herself.

Meanwhile, at the High Charity Covenant Command space station, Cortana was a human yet held high command of the alien nation. She was disappointed the relic was not retrieved. She was informed that one of the Spartan soldiers was able to activate it (when only she could).

Kwan woke on the ship and tried to get out. Suddenly, Dr. Miranda Keyes appeared to her as a hologram to speak with her. Keyes wanted to understand why the aliens attacked Kwan's outpost. Yet the conversation shifted to a political ploy as they requested Kwan to speak with other rebellious inhabitants for peace. Kwan rebutted and only wanted independence for her people.

While Master Chief stared at the relic, Halsey and Adun monitored his vital during his encounter with the totem. Halsey contacted Master Chief for a status report and advised him to stay away from the relic.

Captain Jacob Keyes spoke with his daughter, Miranda, about her unsuccessful chat with Kwan. He told her that Kwan would be killed and made to look like she succumbed from prior injuries. She was upset at the high council's decision.

Kwan and Master Chief spoke about his team murdering her mother years ago. He claimed to only follow orders. Suddenly, he got an order to terminate Kwan! He decided to disobey it and disarm the security cameras.

Parangosky questioned Halsey about Chief's disobedience and she suspected that he was having humane memories of his parents. This was odd to them as his memories were supposed to have been wiped. Parangosky demanded Halsey get her Spartan under control.

Meanwhile, on the ship, the oxygen levels were dropping. Halsey and the team also lowered Master Chief's oxygen inside his suit which knocked him out. He woke to access and override the oxygen levels. Parangosky commanded to have Chief's flight escorted and if he rebutted, then prepare to attack him!

A large army was dispatched to Chief. However, Dr. Halsey commanded the Silver team to strike friendlies if they attacked Master Chief.

Meanwhile, Kwan woke up and pulled a gun on Chief. He warned her that his suit will protect him from the blast. He then took off his helmet to reveal himself to her, telling her to aim at his head if she wanted him dead. He informed her of the UNSC's plans to execute her upon landing. He wanted to help her and allowed her to keep the gun.

They were a few minutes away from auto-landing but disabled autopilot. Before they could take off the ship was shot down. There was a tense standoff outside of the ship with soldiers aimed at the craft and the Silver team aimed at them. Master Chief went to the relic which was

levitating. He touched it again and experienced more memories including a drawing of the relic. Suddenly, all electronics blanked out momentarily. The ship fired up and Chief hopped into the pilot's seat and flew away!

Unbound

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday March 31, 2022
Writer: Kyle Killen, Steven Kane
Director: Otto Bathurst
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Jamie Beamish (Kaidon), Ryan McParland (Adun), Keir Dullea (Fleet Admiral Hood), Julian Bleach (Mercy), Karl Johnson (Truth), Hilton McRae (Regret), Johann Myers (Reth), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Logan Shearer (Teenage John), Jude Cudjoe (Teenage Soren), Anna Trokán (Trokan), Gábor Nagypál (Squirrel), Tylan Bailey (Kessler), Miranda Wilson (Penma), Francisco Labbe (David Agnoli), Iván Fenyő (Bota), Dávid Csányi (Colonel Stacker), Iringó Réti (Vendor), Fernanda Rachi Silva (Caged Person #1), Hisham Omer Abdelrahman Aburas (Caged Person #2), Owen Good (Robin), Casper Knopf (Young John), Sarah Ridgeway (John's Mother), Duncan Pow (John's Father), Daniel Hawksford (Virgil Quin), Celine Nwokeji (Grackle), Hans Peterson (Ops Tech Pereira), Lorena Santana Somogyi (Crewman #1), Jeremy Wheeler (Crewman #2)
Summary: John takes Kwan to an old friend and learns more about the mystery object, which the Covenant and Makee are determined to steal. With the alien threat growing, Dr. Halsey has a plan to deal with John's unpredictable behavior.



The episode opens 22 years earlier. Master Chief was trained to be a Spartan warrior. He wakes up and heads out late into the night. He meets Soren, who asks him where his armor is? John then pulls his plasma gun. Per the program's rules, he tells him he can't let him go. He can even use deadly force if necessary.

Soren pleads by trying to appeal to common sense, how the UNSC and Halsey program his brain to think the unit is more important than their individual lives. John ends up giving him five

minutes to escape. He will say his gun is jammed. Presently, John-117 is flying his ship to their next destination with Kwan.

When they travel through and out of "slipspace," they land in the middle of an asteroid field. As Master Chief maneuvers around them, Kwan sees almost a beard for a space station hidden in among the large metal objects. The station never has had designs to look like one. As he enters the facility aptly titled the "Rubble," everyone draws their weapons. Lower your guns, says a man who walks out. It's Soren-066, the young man Master Chief let go twenty-two years ago.

He welcomes John and informs Kwan there is a bounty on her head by Vinisher Grath, the new head of Madrigal.

Meanwhile, back at UNSC headquarters, a galaxy's most influential organizations meeting. Captain Keyes complimented his handling of the situation, and he recommended Master Chief be terminated. However, Halsey has an ace up her sleeve as she has Captain Hood question Keyes' intention about taking down the world's most revered Spartan. Then, Dr. Halsey unveiled Cortana's new program! And she even tied Admiral Parangosky to it during the meeting! Cortana will be just like Spartan, even expand on it, but will override Spartan consciousness. In other words, if John were Cortana, he would have blown Kwan to bits.

Hood then pulls in Admiral Parangosky to get her take since Halsey has already tied her into knowing, almost intimately, about the Cortana project. She nods her head and looks at the good doctor, who then smiles at Keyes. "Yes," she says.

Meanwhile, Vinisher begins to shoot the resistance members who had ties to the General one by one. Back on the Rubble, Soren introduces John and Kwan to Reth. He spent time on a Covenant ship and lived to tell about it. He confirms that it's an artifact that has to do with the alien races' religion. When Reth reaches out to touch it, nothing happens, and he laughs hysterically. It doesn't go off, so he is not a blessed one (but John-177 was able to activate it, remember?).

Well, if you don't, you do now. Reth attempts to throw the object at the Spartan, and he grabs it in his hand. The burst of the blue energy wave is sent across the Rubble, and Johnny boy has a flashback. The images include what looks like his mother dead and being carried across a room. He runs, with his dog, over a mound of rocks, his father sternly calls his name, and his mother appears to hide something wrapped in a dining cloth napkin from the man.

When he comes to, Reth begins to scream at the Spartan, "What are you?" He also adds, directed at our guy, "Don't know what you are?" Then, a whopper, "You are different than what they have!" Is Reth referring to Makee? He then adds it's a door! But, to what? The end of the world, Reth says.

The Master Chief knows he needs to return the artifact to UNSC. It's dangerous, and he cannot protect it on the Rubble. So, he leaves Kwan there with Soren. His team brings him off the ship in handcuffs. Dr. Halsey has two men grab the case the "weapon" is locked in.

Now Dr. Halsey is not a shrink, evident when John-177 starts to tell Dr. Halsey what he saw in his dreams. She wants not to hear any of it. But what she wants to know is why he chose to save the girl? He feels connected somehow. (They show Makee undressing with visible white tattoos on her back.)

The good doctor then asks, "Why did you come back?" He replies, "There is no one else I can trust." She thanks him and sees this as a new beginning.

They then show Dr. Halsey opening up the pod where Cortana is stored.

Emergence

Season 1
Episode Number: 3
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday April 07, 2022
Writer: Kyle Killen, Steven Kane
Director: Roel Reiné
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Ryan McParland (Adun), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Julian Bleach (Mercy (voice)), Karl Johnson (Truth (voice)), Hilton McRae (Regret (voice)), Billy Marlow (Det), Zazie Hayhurst (Young Makee), Robert Jackson (Enforcer), Adam Boncz (Enforcer #2), Hans Peterson (Sangheili #1 (voice)), Gábor Nagypál (Squirrel), Anna Trokán (Trokan), Matt Devere (Captain Yates), Zsófia Miklós (Radio Operator), Kembe Sorel (Weapons Operator), Lilien Fanni Namenyi (Sensor Operator), Casper Knopf (Young John), Sarah Ridgeway (John's Mother), Duncan Pow (John's Father), Tylan Bailey (Kessler), Natalia Toth (Young Marine), Kevin Ezekiel Ogunleye (Second Marine), Aron Arany-Toth (Teenager), Burn Gorman (Vinsher Grath)
Summary: John meets his new partner and discovers secrets in his own memory; Kwan wants to continue her people's fight for independence, but Soren has different plans for her; Makee's plan to retrieve the Madrigal object has deadly consequences.



The episode opens with the story of planet Oban, a UEG Tier 2 waste salvage colony. There are dozens of men and women working on sorting the dump, including two children, a boy and a girl, reading the story, *The Dawn of Angels*. That's when the guards come chasing them. They beat the boy to death with their weapons as they catch up. Then, two members of the Covenant are transported down from their ship. They bat away the guard like a fly and look upon the scared girl. This is the creature we seek, the aliens say. The

little girl understands and grabs the book she was reading with the boy before her first kiss. As they leave, the scene cuts to the girl as an adult.

Makee, and now we know how she came to be on the Covenant ship. But why was she chosen? And why is she still alive? As she talks to the elders, they ask if she will continue searching for the keystone and the "demon," who possesses the same power as her. Who could that be? Well, Master Chief, of course. Of course, there was some payback from last week's episode. At UNSC headquarters, the admiral has taken it upon herself to let her daughter, Dr. Keyes, study the keyhole because she wants to rely less on Dr. Halsey.

That introduces us to Cortana. Dr. Halsey pulls out her clone, not Cortana, and they have a very existential conversation even though she is a carbon copy of her. She has memories of

Dr. Halsey as a young student to create the Spartan program. So, they ask Master Chief to go through an "upgrade" of sorts. When they hook him up and power him down, they extract the brain from the clone. When that is complete, the body of the Halsey double is vaporized. Then, Cortana appears as a digital AI that is there to start her mission.

What is her mission? Cortana is to fully integrate herself into the Master Chief to optimize his physical and mental performance. But Dr. Halsey has prevented her from doing this temporarily because they still need to see how the artifact affects him and, when she integrates, affects her. It does not go over well when she is introduced to Master Chief. Even if she is designed to enhance his abilities, he has no intention of having his own little Alexa annoying him at every moment. Later, when Cortana has control of Master Chief and touches the artifact, Cortana can't see anything he sees.

"Fascinating," Dr. Halsey says quietly.

Later, when the Master Chief is trying to remove his emotional regulator, which he sees as an issue with his visions causing him to have untimely emotions (or blocking them), Dr. Halsey asks her to help him gain his confidence. Now, Master Chief, for some reason, is trying to remove this pellet from his lower back while being buck-naked in front of a public locker room mirror, but to each his own. He removes it after she guides him, sticking a large knife into his back. He then goes for the artifact and sees that, as a child, he kept drawing it over and over. And it turns out he drew a second artifact that the one he is touching goes inside. But where is it?

He remembers burying something with his father against his will, and what if that is the second artifact? After a process of elimination, they feel it must be on Eridanus II. Master Chief has Cortana do a data check on why Eridanus II became uninhabited. Why? A cargo ship carried in a virus that swept through the population. In accordance with protocols, the planet was sealed off. We can assume everyone died.

Then we have a "trojan" ship of sorts as Makee invades UNSC air space and pretends to be a victim of a Covenant kidnapping. Makee claims the aliens abandoned the ship when the engines went cold and left her dead. Of course, the man in charge of the UNSC vessel falls for it and sends a pod to grab her. As they pat her down for weapons, and the man in charge wants to bring her aboard with a handshake, giant worm-like creatures invade the ship, choking the entire ship's command.

The episode ends with three ships going to alternate destinations. Makee sends a message to UNSC taunting them and how she is going to find the artifact and demon. Kwan Ha, who has been trying to escape back to her home planet, offers to pay Soren-066 money if she gets her back so she can rejoin the resistance. Finally, Master Chief, Dr. Halsey, and Cortana head off to Eridanus II to see if they can locate the second artifact.

Homecoming

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday April 14, 2022
Writer: Justine Juel Gillmer, Steven Kane
Director: Roel Reiné
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Ryan McParland (Adun), Nila Aalia (Agatha Terne), Tsogbaatar Batzorig (Man in the Crowd), Angie Cepeda (Violetta Franco), Khash-Erdene Ganbold (Jong Sook), Burn Gorman (Vinsler Grath), Scott Karim (Fazekas), Ali Khan (Attu), Casper Knopf (Young John), Jaram Lee (Madrigal Elder), Duncan Pow (John's Father), Sarah Ridgeway (John's Mother), Yuna Shin (Soojin Ha), Sebastián Capitán Viveros (Sergeant Mendez)
Summary: Guided by his visions, John takes Halsey and Cortana back to where it all began, looking for answers from his past. With Soren along for protection, Kwan goes in search of an army.



The episode starts with children, who cannot be more than ten years old, jogging in military formation. One of them is John-117, our Master Chief. He later tries to escape again, and a young Dr. Halsey asks him why? He wants to go home but doesn't remember where home is. That's when Dr. Halsey tells him how he has such unique leadership skills, and she is counting on it to save all of us. It's the kind of thing kidnappers do when manipulating their victims to become indebted to them.

The Madrigal object may not be a weapon, per Dr. Halsey, but there is the intelligence behind it and may lead to a greater one somewhere she wants to meet. But why does it respond to only Master Chief's touch? That is something Dr. Halsey intends to find out. Meanwhile, Cortana tells Master Chief he is experiencing anxiety, something he has never felt before. "I'm going home," he says. They then fly out of slip space and land outside his home planet of Eridanus II.

Back at UNSC headquarters, everyone on the Spartan team wants to be like Master Chief. Kai-125 (Kate Kennedy) has also taken out the hormonal pellet in her back that blocks the team members from having elevated emotions. She then colors her hair with streaks of red, which look like blood from her hands, and ties it back. Kai-125 is finally showing some rebellion.

Meanwhile, Dr. Keyes begins her testing on the object and will use the rest of the Spartan team to run tests. Kai-125 is especially interested, but the good doctor first uses one of the other warriors. Keyes finds out that Vannak is unworthy as the object does not light up when he touches it. Kai gives Keyes some attitude because she knows she doesn't like them. Kai knows she won't activate the object and feels it without fear. It stays silent.

Soren and Kwan Ha land on Madrigal, where Vinisher Grath has taken over the colony with an iron fist. Kwan attends the memorial for her father, but there is a bounty on her head. She soon finds out her father's second in command has made a deal with Grath, and his men break up the memorial for him. They take over Soren's ship, and he warns Kwan there are no more heroes. He tries to leave, but Kwan stops him. She promises to pay him when they locate Kwan's Aunt.

As they make their way to Aunt Soojin, Grath recruits a woman named Franco to eliminate them before becoming trouble for him. Soren soon discovers that they scrapped his entire ship and ripped its guts for parts. Meanwhile, Kwan is told by her Aunt there is no more money. And she has this little tidbit — Kwan's father visited a group called the Mystics, and he came back changed. He comes back convinced their true purpose will be revealed to Madrigal when Franco enters and kills Aunt Soojin and is saved by Soren's golden gun when he comes back for her.

Master Chief and Dr. Halsey find his old home, and he remembers how he had to bury something while his mother watched from the balcony. When they start to dig, they find a capsule full of Master Chief's drawings as a child. Dr. Halsey wants to go back to the ship, but he moves on into the house. Cortana begins to project memories and his movements, which Dr. Halsey hopes will lead them to a discovery of the second object.

Soon, they find John is doing this on his own. His mother is letting him play. His father shows him he can grow plants with a flick of his wrist. He runs around with his faithful golden retriever, Ellie. Then, John sees his mother drawing those endless pictures of the objects and hanging them. She looks concerned. His father demands to know what he is drawing next. (One looks like several hands holding a round object). Then Master Chief sees himself as that young lad and goes down into an underground cavern. He touches something on the wall, and it shakes. A light then flashes, and he watches himself run away.

His last vision has him approaching his pubescent self, talking to Dr. Halsey in his own parent's home. He questions why she was there, but she tells him trauma can muddle his memories. After Cortana runs some tests, they find Master Chief mixes his emotions with memories and releases neural clusters that will make it nearly impossible to predict what he may remember next. Master Chief comes over and says he knows where the second object is.

The final scenes show Kai and Dr. Keyes going over the recording from Makee. As they talk about Kai's bit of rebellion in her new hairstyle, she hears something. She translates the words as "sacred ring," and Kai knows what she said. Halo.

Finally, as Soren and Kwan head out to jump on a ship out of town, Master Chief leads them to the second object. When we hear Dr. Keyes to Kai, Dr. Halsey could see her act of rebellion as a glitch in the system. And Dr. Halsey doesn't tolerate glitches.

Reckoning

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday April 21, 2022
Writer: Richard E. Robbins, Steven Kane
Director: Jonathan Liebesman
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Halsey), Ryan McParland (Adun), Isaura Barbé-Brown (Katei Rios), Casper Knopf (Young John), Hans Peterson (Sangheili Guard (voice)), Burn Gorman (Vinsher Grath), Patrik Zana (Greskoviak)
Summary: On the run and out of options, Kwan and Soren have a difference of opinion. With the possibility of finding the mysterious Halo on everyone's minds, John makes a horrible discovery. And the war rears its ugly head.



The episode opens with a young-looking Dr. Halsey taking a tour of Eridanus II's Reach for Life Installation. She views a school where the guide is raving about the children's pioneer spirit. They see a rope and step bridge where the planks in the middle have given way. A bully is shaking the bridge, scaring John that he may fall. Suddenly, the bully falls and saves him by grabbing his ankle. He pulls him up with one arm. He's a small child.

But who is the man Dr. Halsey is with? We know him. It is Dr. Jacob Keyes.

Meanwhile, back in the present day, Keyes is waiting for his daughter, Miranda, to arrive. He picks her up to take her to the Eridanus artifact. Cortana has just told Master Chief that the Madrigal artifact has nothing on this one. The energy it can produce is far greater. Dr. Halsey then approaches and gives Master Chief an order to stay away from it because it is a safety issue.

The Kai has a "who's on first" talk with Vannak wondering what the Covenant wants. This earns her ire from her Spartan mate and her dumb questions. When she leaves the barracks, that's when Master Chief sees her from a distance. He confronts her about taking out the "pellet," and she admits to now being "awake" to the world. He grounds her and says she isn't fit for battle.

Master Chief needs to confide in someone, and he doesn't trust Cortana. He approaches Dr. Jacob Keyes because he trusts him. He is his captain. So, he unveils the truth about Dr. Halsey being at his house as a child. Keyes plays it cool as if he has no idea of what he is talking about. Later, when talking to Dr. Halsey, they present Master Chief's situation and if they should terminate him, Dr. Halsey blackmails the UNSC board to keep the Spartan program alive. Keyes says she wants Miranda off this immediately to keep her hands clean.

"Finally, we can agree upon a parenting issue," Dr. Halsey replies.

That's when they try to penetrate the protective barrier between the artifact and the rest of the world. The green laser pierces the glass and sends a sound wave that causes everyone to

grab their heads and run around screaming. Master Chief runs for the artifact, and the protective barrier crumbles. Somehow, no blood is oozing from anyone's heads. This sends an energy signal to the Covenant, and Makee can now feel where the artifact is.

That's when Master Chief decides he has had enough. He touches the new artifact over Cortana's objections. The energy is almost too much to overcome, but he sees Dr. Halsey in a memory kidnap him. He screams, and when Dr. Halsey comes running for him, he finally confronts her. She won't talk about it now, but they have to leave later. The "pelletless" Master Chief tries to attack her, and Cortana shuts down his neural bridge.

When Master Chief wakes up, Cortana explains that slip space has been penetrated. The Covenant has arrived. Master Chief and his team attempt to get the artifact out of Eridanus in a blistering siege scene, but Miranda's ship is destroyed. The next best thing is Dr. Halsey's ship, which orders Master Chief to get it to her immediately. As the Covenant begins to kill and destroy everyone in their wake, Halsey sees Miranda from a distance. In a rare scene of caring for someone other than herself, Halsey runs out of the ship to help her get to the escape.

Finally, Master Chief makes a choice that backfires. He chooses to try and save Kai, who has let the emotions get the best of her. She cannot handle all the death around her, lets down her guard, and now is being beaten by a Covenant bad guy. He leads off the jeep and allows Riz and Vannak to take the artifact to Halsey's ship. Unfortunately, a Covenant ship intercepts them and sends the artifact flying below. As Master Chief saves Kai, she points out the artifact is behind them. As he runs for the mysterious object, an alien ship descends below, and a member of the Covenant is there to hold off the Master Chief, so they make their escape. They lose the artifact because Master Chief now has found a heart.

The final scenes show Makee in the ship as the Eridanus artifact is now in Covenant hands. She says to them, "Make it look real." She then is sent barreling to the planet below. She looks up at Master Chief and passes out. We can only assume she is pretending.

Solace

Season 1

Episode Number: 6

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Thursday April 28, 2022
Writer:	Silka Luisa, Steven Kane
Director:	Jonathan Liebesman
Show Stars:	Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars:	Ryan McParland (Adun), Casper Knopf (Young John), Quynh Do Ngoc (Marine Lieutenant Goy), Danielle Fiamanya (UNSC Nurse), Claudius Peters (MP Malya), Miranda Wilson (Penma), Francisco Labbe (David Agnoli), Iván Fenyő (Bota), Hans Peterson (Ops Tech Pereira), Johnny K. Palmer (Control Tech Ladi), Karen Gagnon (Flight Tech Juric), Roderick Hill (Major Ira Halal), Balázs Bölkény (Wounded Marine), Duncan Pow (John's Father), Burn Gorman (Vinsher Grath), Esh Alladi (David), Mirjam Novak (Flight Tech Tesic)
Summary:	Survivors of the battle with the Covenant return to Reach. John confronts Dr. Halsey and her lies. The new prisoner seems to know John better than he knows himself. The mysterious artifact shows John something startling.



The episode opens with our hero having flashbacks of his childhood while Kai squeezes his hand. It was not a day to write home about. Captain Keyes informs the Master Chief of what has happened. Like a good leader, when his star pupil regrets not doing his job by delivering the artifact, the Captain stops him. You saved 150 lives, including mine, he tells him. Master Chief follows the typical modest, deflecting comment that more will be lost if they do not get the artifact back.

Then Master Chief plays chicken with Cortana. He tried to vaporize the UV Decontamination system because it was the only part of the ship without a failsafe. As Dr. Halsey begs for her life, he pulls her out at the last second. He does this by testing Cortana to see her limits. It turns out she cannot override the system. Master Chief tells Dr. Halsey he has no plans of saving her from what is about to happen.

But let's not forget about Makee. She tells her story that everyone believes, how the Covenant kidnapped her as a child. Makee tells him, John (that is how he introduces himself to her), that he is known as the "demon" to those who kidnapped her. She then pleads with him to be aware that he is in great danger if he has the second keystone. And she drops this little nugget. Her captors call her "the blessed one," and she is just like him. (In episode two, a prisoner on Soren's planet tells Master Chief he is a blessed one).

The Admiral and Captain Keyes listen to Dr. Halsey's debriefing in the hopes of eliciting information to make her the patsy. Dr. Halsey explained how natural evolution is failing, and she was

planning the species' future. That is where the Spartan program comes in. They would protect the human race and them from ourselves. She needed children older than six to replace them with genetically compromised flash clones, which would pass away from an undiagnosed seizure disorder. So, Dr. Halsey had parents grieving over clones that were not their children. Then, when Master Chief asks who knows about it, Dr. Halsey takes the fall that it was all on her. The Admiral removes her from the program and hands Miranda's keys for her efforts.

Miranda and her mother, Dr. Halsey, then have a moment. She denies her daughter access to Spartan records to lure her into talking. From there, she alludes to an apology for how she was an absentee mother. However, it turns out she is always about herself. She had a contact lens in her eye. We can assume she may be stealing a copy of Miranda's retina to regain access to the Spartan program. She reports to Master Chief that he and Makee share rare genetic codes, including one that is two in a billion.

Makee then sets into manipulation mode, thinking she can turn the Master Chief. She explains how the Prophets told her to finally give herself over to the visions, which she did. This found her piece and the "keystones" became her servants. She asks John to take her to the one they have the same it can guide them to the one the Covenant stole. This is the only way John will find peace.

Master Chief then grabs Miranda so they can run a test. He holds onto the keystone, and with the intensity and pain he feels, so does Makee. John appears to be stuck to the artifact like he is being electrocuted while Makee passes out and her heart rate races past 170. Dr. Halsey, now watching with the help of Cortana, sees all their vitals match perfectly. Meanwhile, Master Chief and Makee are transported to a mountain with a field. At its end, a strange, stone object reaches from that mountain and into the sky, where it cannot be seen beyond the clouds. Master Chief approaches Makee. They look into each other's eyes, and he touches her cheek.

Their vitals lower when this happens as they have found peace, and John snaps out of it. Where did he go, Miranda asks? He is speechless.

Inheritance

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday May 05, 2022
Writer: Steven Kane
Director: Jessica Lowrey
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bo-keem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Ryan McParland (Adun), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Tylan Bailey (Kessler), Nila Aalia (Agathe Terne), Máté Bede-Fazekas (Pete), Angie Cepeda (Violetta Franco), Martin Fisher (Raphael Bivas), Burn Gorman (Vinsher Grath), Péter Jankovics (Filip), Joshua Jo (Man at the Well), Jeong-hwan Kong (Jin Ha), J Sebastian Lee (Young Father), Johann Myers (Reth), Gábor Nagypál (Squirrel), Ian Pirie (Professor), Narmina Rahimova (Young Mother), Yuna Shin (Soojin Ha), Josette Simon (Desiderata), Jeannine Szovik (Village Elder), Anna Trokán (Trokan), Nóra Trokán (Daranka), Sky Yang (Ruben)
Summary: Kwan's journey to uncover her family's "true purpose" takes her deep into the deserts of Madrigal. Soren obsesses over unfinished business.



It's a star-filled night sky in the Kwan Ha-centric episode. Right before she comes out to view the Madrigal night in the now-deceased compound, she is having dinner with her father and most of the men and women who are now deceased. His father and aunt try to set her up with a young soldier, but she is not impressed with him. He has no plans to leave this planet after the war. She tells her father off, bringing up her mother and his deceased wife.

Halo now flashes forward to the present day. Kwan Ha is driving a sand cruiser right in the heart of a sand storm straight out of Lawrence of Arabia. She stops her vehicle, steps out, and yells out for whoever she feels is watching her. A hood is then placed over her head.

She is freed and meets a woman named Desiderata, head of the Mystics — according to her aunt, the group Kwan's father was in contact with. She demands to know why he contacted them because she is the last of her family. Desiderata denies her request.

Hey, remember Soren? The last time we saw him, he was knocked out by Kwan and lying on his back while she pointed a golden gun at his head. Well, he went back to the Rubble, puffing his chest, but others sense he has his tail between his legs. One of his people smells weakness and challenges his authority since he came back without a bounty promised by the girl. The man, the Squirrel, is drunk and lets a secret slip. He has a job that could bring in something real. Soren corners him later, and he tells him that it's a UNSC ship carrying military-grade slip space drivers.

When we return to the Mystics, Desiderata turns to fire into water and has Kwan drink the bowl to learn about her rage. In a Groundhog Day/Edge of Tomorrow-like sequence, she is transported to the Master Chief's ship. They land and return to the Mystic camp, and Reth welcomes them. He announces the start of the fight. To Kwan's shock, she is to fight Master Chief himself. She fights, he wins, she is killed, repeat.

This goes on several times until she stops fighting, asks what he wants, and he again takes off his helmet and offers her his hand. He takes Kwan outside, where you may have the best scene of the series outside action sequences. She sees generations of her ancestors ascend to her. They populate right out of each other, one by one until she lays eyes on her father.

He tells her about a portal that she sees behind him in her vision. It's fueled by the precious fuel underneath the soul of Madrigal. He won't reveal the nature or hidden secrets behind it, but he says she must protect it. That means leading the resistance.

Kwan goes back to the compound, and Vinisher tracks her there. Fortunately for Kwan, Soren comes back after, uh, stepping on Squirrel's toes. He tells her he is not here for the money but tells Master Chief he would protect her. Unfortunately, Vinisher has them surrounded. However, Kwan plans to use a tunnel to turn on the hydrogen station, which will eviscerate Vinisher and his men. The only problem is Soren has to hold them off, keep one bullet from blowing the station, and be able to get to the steel-reinforced bunker before the explosion reaches them.

It was a close call, where Soren was left badly injured at the bunker door, but Kwan finds Master Chief's weapon that he left behind. She lets one rip, putting a hole in the pipe that leads to the hydrogen station. Soren and Kwan get to the door in time and barely beat the flames. I wish we could say the same for Vinisher. He was a lot of fun, but he has turned from ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Mystics see the purple hydrogen bomb that sailed directly in the air. Later, Soren says goodbye, and Kwan has finally become the leader her father knew she could be.

Allegiance

Season 1
Episode Number: 8
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday May 12, 2022
Writer: Justine Juel Gillmer, Steven Kane
Director: Jonathan Liebesman
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Ryan McParland (Adun), Zsuzsanna Roe (Young Girl), Jessica Fostekeew (Borovoi), Karl Akortia (Marine Gunnery Sgt.), Claudius Peters (MP Malya), David Z. Miller (Murdo), Samuel Tamunotoku Gbobo (Marine Doyle), Burn Gorman (Vinsher Grath), Caroline Boulton (Flight Tech Javal), Amirreza Farajvand (Marine Private)
Summary: John and Makee come to terms with their shared vision. Halsey has one last chance to save her mission, and herself. As things come to a head, everyone must choose a side.



The episode opens with the suddenly helmetless one in some haze. Yes, he is out of the shower. Thankfully, he has a towel on, staring into the mirror with steam hovering around him. The Master Chief keeps thinking about when they were transported to another place (or even time?). He gets dressed, walks into Makee's room, and they look at each other. He hands her a uniform. They walk through the UNSC headquarters, where Makee stops. Master Chief looks back, tells her not to be afraid, and takes her hand.

They take a walk outside, and under what appears to be an orchard of cherry blossom trees. They now talk about how they feel this connection to "the ring" and admit they saw each other there. Frankly, the whole thing seems like a metaphor for their romantic relationship. Makee flashes back to when she kissed a boy when she was younger and was taken by the Covenant. I thought this might be Master Chief years prior, and now I wonder if this is the case and part of the connection. Or, the bond they talk about maybe the allure of evil.

But, of course, Makee and her Nazi blond short haircut ruin it. She tells him how the ring is sacred to the Covenant. And those who are worthy will be swept by a great wind there, etc. Master Chief asks her a question: what about the ones that are not worthy? "Cleansed," Makee replies.

Meanwhile, the Covenant has taken down three cities. The latest is Agade, and 11 million people have been killed. Admiral Parangosky says they cannot simply sit back and wait for the Covenant to come to them. Master Chief agrees with her. He wants to use Makee to use both artifacts to locate the killer alien race to make a strike. Why? Because she is human.

Of course, Master Chief is no longer thinking with his brain but with his other head. He and Makee start comparing scars like Lorna and Riggs in *Lethal Weapon 3*. They make love while Cortana watches creepily like a perverted Tinker Bell, waiting in the wings. The digital AI reports back to Dr. Halsey and says John is no longer alone. The excellent doctor replies that he was never alone and he had her.

Surprisingly, Makee wakes up and feels guilty about her association with the Covenant. She goes to the bathroom and pulls out her fingernail, tricked into a weapon. All while Master Chief sleeps like a baby.

Captain Keyes then notifies Dr. Halsey the admiral is kicking her off the planet. She has initiated Zed Protocol, where the Spartans go offline and only talk to her. She also tells them that they need to grab Master Chief and Makee. Of course, Kai has an issue with it, and Halsey has her attacked and secured. Finally, the plan is to take out John once Makee and Cortana take over Master Chief's role.

Cortana warns Master Chief of the plan to capture him. He fights Riz and Vannak, with his digital friend giving him gaming advice on countering their armor and shield protection. Meanwhile, John sends Makee up to warn the admiral and captain what Halsey is up to. Once Master Chief is on his last legs, Kai escapes and comes to his aid.

When Makee reaches the artifact to warn the others of Halsey's plan, they are skeptical but are now looking for Halsey. When Miranda shows up to tell them, Makee is the one on the recording. She tries to explain she has no choice, but one of the guards knocks her down and begins to burn her with his weapon. This brings back memories of humans abusing her as a child, and when the admiral tells her she will pay for this, she tells her no, they will.

Makee grabs the small artifact, which sends a shock wave that kills the guard and knocks over the officers, and the Spartans, including Master Chief. He has then transported again to the ring and sees Makee there. She tells him goodbye. He reaches for her, and then he is back lying on the floor of UNSC headquarters.

Makee is no longer confused — the humans are the problem.

Transcendence

Season 1

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday May 19, 2022
Writer: Steven Kane
Director: Jonathan Liebesman
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes)
Guest Stars: Ryan McParland (Adun), Julian Bleach (Mercy), Karl Johnson (Truth), Hilton McRae (Regret), Tylan Bailey (Kessler), Caroline Boulton (Flight Tech Javal), Gustavo Chiang (MP Takacs), Balázs Csémy (Evans), Danielle Fiamanya (Nurse), Samuel Tamunotoku Gbobo (Marine Doyle), Burn Gorman (Vinsher Grath), Ali Khan (Attu), Oladapo Oluwatosin Okunlola (MP Choksey), Claudius Peters (MP Malya), Barnabás Réti (Corpsman 2), Petra Veres-Kovács (Corpsman 1)
Summary: Beaten, battered, and betrayed, John 117 leads the Spartans on a suicide mission to find the Halo and save humanity.



The episode starts with the Master Chief waking up from his slumber with his face looking battered, bruised, and bloody. He begins to roll over and shake his head to get rid of the cobwebs.

When Master Chief begins to chase Makee after finding out from Dr. Miranda Keyes that she took the artifact, Vannak holds him at gunpoint, and John attempts to explain that Halsey kidnapped the Spartans when they were all children. He only lets him go when Captain Keyes admits to having a hand in Dr. Halsey's

experiments. Three Spartans go after Makee, who is headed to her Covenant ship. Kai goes after Dr. Halsey.

Adun, the sniveling little twerp who carries a torch for Halsey's boss, tries to take Kai from behind with a large metal object. Kai attacks, holding him by his shirt, and Adun watches his boss leave him and sprint for the escape pod. Kai throws him headfirst into the ceiling, snapping his neck instantly. What can you say? Love hurts. Halsey escapes, and the ship is speeding towards the ground.

Meanwhile, the three Spartans chasing Makee are Vannak, Riz, and Master Chief. Unfortunately, Makee escapes with her ship. As they run out to the tarmac, they see Halsey's boat crash into the ground with Kai in it. Shocked but soon relieved, Kai abandoned the ship, and they saw her climb on top of the runway.

But where did Makee take the artifact? Aspero is the most likely planet, according to Master Chief. Why? Because the area has light coming from the system, it gives the planet a shape that looks like shards of glass. Just like Makee told him. That is where the Halo is and where Makee will be headed.

When Makee reaches her party, she presents the noble ones with both keystones but without the Demon's head. They now will go on their Great Journey. Makee asks if she can accompany them. She can, if that's what she wants, one asks. She gives them one of those "of course" lines, but she touches her finger where the weapon once was and that she tore out in the last episode.

Yet, the Covenant's Nobles embracing of the Blessed One is only for Makee's benefit. They will let her burn as soon as they make their great journey, just like the rest of the human race.

Halsey survives the escape hatch but is caught by UNSC security. Miranda Keyes walks into her interrogation room, and there is so much hateful history there. Miranda calls her mother before she leaves and gives her the news — she has been served with an article 72. We presume this means the death penalty. Later, Halsey has a seizure and begins bleeding from both nostrils. Miranda knows exactly what is going on. This is a clone, and Dr. Halsey has escaped.

The Spartans arrive to get their keystones back. Still, when they approach the Covenants as they perform their ceremony of putting the artifacts together, Master Chief and Makee feel each other instantly. John becomes lightheaded. He begins to stumble from his hiding place, and a Covenant lookout sees him from below. They are now compromised, but Riz takes out the enemy shooters. However, Sangheili warriors, hidden from view, are now alerted.

In an impressive battle sequence of a couple of hundred Sangheili warriors ascending upon the silver team, Riz takes on the leader and is immediately compromised. The Master Chief comes to her aide and takes on five warriors, while Vannak and Kai provide cover fire on the waves of enemies sprinting to their location. Soon, Master Chief, after taking out several fighters, is pinned to the ground and takes several shots to the head. That's when Makee sees her lover is done for. She touches the keystone, and the activation sends a solar wave that flings hundreds of Sangheili warriors off the mountain top to certain death below.

Immediately then, Makee and Master Chief are transported back to that peaceful planet where they connected. She tells him that they should leave their lives and stay. Master Chief tells her she needs to let go. Both then realize blood has begun to soak through her clothes and around her chest. She slumps to the ground. When Makee lets go of the artifact, Master Chief comes back to the fight and out of his trance. He sees Kai point a gun at Makee. She has shot and killed her. Why? To get Master Chief back in the fight.

But there are too many of them. One warrior attaches a timed grenade to Riz, and when Kai tries to help her, it goes off, knocking them both out. Vannak is down already, being shot when complaining to Kai that she needs to wake up their boss. With only Master Chief left, and no way to get the artifacts and his team off the planet simultaneously, he allows himself to be sacrificed so Cortana can take over his body. His last words to her are, "Find the Halo, win the war." This is also bad news for the Nobles because they needed the Blessed One and the Demon to activate the keystones.

Cortana takes out several enemy combatants, but the leader and one who took out John are tricky. So, she activates their ship to side-swipe the son of a b***h. Before we can continue, couldn't Cortana have just done that herself since she controls those types of things? Either way, this puts a dent in the Covenant's plan. The ship provides enough recovery fire so Cortana can control Master Chief's body to grab the artifacts (which shocks Kai) to the ship, and they escape.

The season ends with Dr. Halsey on an unknown planet enjoying her freedom as a convict on the run. Finally, as Master Chief is flying the ship home, Kai sits down next to him and asks if everything is alright. The Master Chief does not utter a word (and not one since Cortana took over his body). He looks at her and then at the screen with his helmet still on.

Season Two

Sanctuary

Season 2

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Thursday February 08, 2024
Writer:	David Wiener
Director:	Debs Paterson
Show Stars:	Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars:	Luke Polie (Captain Nix), Benjamin Wainwright (Gunnery Sgt Boone), Olwen Fouéré (The Mother), Sam Gittins (Corporal Sims), Micah Karns (Corporal Fisk), Genesis Lynea (Lance Corporal Bowman), Luke Davis (Private Rand), Blake Patrick Anderson (Felix), Josie Lawrence (Minnie), Ashwin Varma (Refugee Husband), Vivien Nagy (Refugee Wife), Tomi May (Baz), Kamilla Szász (Vera), Juliette Motamed (Carina), Franc Ashman (Ruby Ann), David Crowley (Castor), Ilias Shweirif (Virgil), Ivanno Jeremiah (Antares), Maria Luisa Costa (Manuela Perez), Sebastian Orozco (Cousin Ant), Eliseo Barrionuevo (Cousin Matteo), Maria Jose Bavio (Aunt Lucia), Thomas Dominique (Val-015), Karen Connell (Yaz-112), Nathan Wiley (Karim-002), Jessica Chisnall (Virtual Companion)
Summary:	A deadly evacuation mission signals a shift in Master Chief's war with the Covenant. On Reach, a new regime takes the reins at FLEETCOM. John senses a looming threat close to home.



Master Chief Petty Officer John-117 lies on an examination table, eyes open but seemingly unaware of his situation. He's surrounded by scientists and/or doctors who are injecting him and sticking patches to his body.

Cortana's voice is heard. "Chief? Wake up. I need you to wake up. Please wake up." When there is no response, she says, "He's dying. We're losing him." A tear rolls out of John's eye. Cortana demands, "Sever the connection."

In Sanctuary, Banta System, a group of armored Spartans stand ready in the rain for Operation Shepherd. Master Chief responds to a request for support in the village with Riz but orders Vannak to maintain the watch. Vannak is unimpressed, calling his assignment "babysitting."

It's been six months since Cortana merged with John. Kai reminds Vannak that they are there to keep John safe. Vannak repeats, "Babysitting."

In the village, UNSC is evacuating the civilian population of a village, but a group led by a silent white-haired woman, The Mother, refuses to comply. When the soldiers try to lay hands on

her, the people around her rebuff them. Kai reports that Captain Nix is antagonizing the locals. John and Riz continue their approach on foot at a fast run.

Kai asks Vannak if he has removed his pellet. He admits he pulled his three weeks ago. She asks if he feels different, which he denies. However, he shares that he likes to watch animal documentaries in his downtime since pulling it. Kai notices flashes of light above the village and tells Vannak to call it in.

In the village, The Mother finally speaks to the Captain and tells him her people were evacuated "for their safety" 42 years earlier from a much more hospitable planet. She tells him they won't need the UNSC's help this time.

John arrives, and the Captain leaves to investigate a missing group of Marines, Bravo Team. The Mother begins to preach about how their planet has a soul, and they refuse to abandon it in its time of torment. She asks John if he has family or faith.

An alert comes in that a Covenant ship is approaching Sanctuary. John tells the Captain he will bring the Marines in the hills back.

He runs towards the hills, guided by Vannak's directions. He ascends a cliff face with a grappling line. Kai and Vannak lose sight of him as he gets lost in the fog at higher altitudes. In the village, many residents are fleeing at the news of the Covenant approaching. The Mother and her followers remain calm, standing in the center of town.

John finds Bravo Team's vehicles empty on a plateau in the hills. His communication with Vannak is encountering interference. He refuses to turn back when Vannak advises him to, ordering Vannak and Kai to help with the evacuation.

As John moves further into the fog, shots are fired at him, missing by a wide margin. He realizes he's found Bravo team and shouts at them to hold fire.

Four unit members recognize John and explain they got separated from the rest of their team. One member, Private Rand, is very jumpy and doesn't move when John orders them to follow him. Another member explains in a patronizing tone that Rand saw something in the fog and is scared something will get them. Suddenly, something snatches him.

One by one, the members are snatched by an unseen assailant. John only has one Bravo team member left, Corporal Perez. Back to back, they keep an eye out for whatever is hunting them.

Perez postulates the enemy's gone, but John tells her they're still near because he can smell them. Suddenly, two Sangheili soldiers attack. John fights and kills one and then discovers Perez is gone. He ventures further into the fog and is attacked by several more zealots.

He dispatches them all and continues to search for Perez, finding first the dead bodies of the other members of Bravo team. Perez is still alive. He gets her sitting up, but she sees something behind him and scrambles to hide again. John turns to see many more Covenant soldiers gathered behind him. They prepare to attack, then suddenly deactivate their weapons and leave.

In the distance, through the fog, John sees a woman swathed in black. She turns and walks away.

The Covenant ships attack the planet with plasma blasts. John shields Perez from the one closest to them. In the village, Vannak and Kai are loading the residents into the evacuation ships. Kai runs out to see The Mother and her followers kneeling in the center of the village.

They stand suddenly and walk towards the destruction just as John returns, carrying Perez. The Mother stops John and tells him, "Find your faith, Spartan. I have seen your death. It comes soon." Kai gets John to the ship, and they take off, leaving The Mother and her followers behind.

At the Reach of Fleetcom in the Inner Colonies, John showers, trying to clear his head of strange static he's hearing and a voice calling out to him.

Waking suddenly during a debrief session with Admiral Keyes, John demands an explanation for what they encountered on Sanctuary. Admiral Keyes explains they are encountering the same on multiple planets. Besides Sanctuary, they've lost the planets Madrigal and Estuary as well.

John protests that the Covenant had soldiers on Sanctuary before they glassed the planet. Why would they invade before glassing it? Admiral Keyes tells him to put it in his report for examination. They are interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Ackerson, Dr. Halsey's replacement, the new head of the Spartan program.

He introduces himself, clarifying that he knows Team Silver's members and abilities. Ackerson reveals Halsey is still alive and on the run. He states their mission is to keep the fight in the Outer Colonies to make those in the Inner Colonies feel safe. John questions whether that's true.

After Ackerson leaves, Admiral Keyes sets the team on a 10-hour leave to get medical clearance. When Kai asks for a second time who Ackerson is, Admiral Keyes states that he's the boss.

At The Rubble in the 23 Librae System, people flood into an arena where refugees seeking asylum offer themselves for indentured servitude for two years. One career criminal is selected out of the group. As another man, Felix from Harvest, is led off, he offers the location of Catherine Halsey in exchange for freedom. After Soren-066 questions him, his offer is rejected. However, Soren makes eye contact with one of his minions, who leaves quietly.

John enters Fleetcom for his medical evaluation and sees Perez in another examination room. There's a flashback to the encounter with the Covenant soldiers on Sanctuary. John snaps back when Ackerson calls him. Perez looks up briefly.

Ackerson and John talk. John presents his theory that the Covenant soldiers were on Sanctuary training, practicing taking down a comms relay. Ackerson processes this and then changes the topic to ask John about his mental state, bringing up the allegations against Halsey.

He questions whether John's time being controlled by Cortana makes him a liability. John prepares to leave, but Ackerman insists he stay.

Soren returns home with Laera, discussing how he has no one to whom he can delegate his responsibilities. They find Kessler wearing a Spartan helmet and playing with a Master Chief figurine. When they say hi to him, he leaves the room.

Laera and Soren discuss all the people needing help. Soren tells her it's ridiculous to contemplate trying to save them all. She bristles at that and tells him his dream of bringing Halsey to justice is ridiculous. Laera warns him that his crew doesn't feel appreciated and the other syndicates don't respect them like they used to. She expresses a desire to leave this life behind. He considers that running and reminds her that they don't run.

In the Fleetcom locker room, Kai draws John's attention to the viewer, where Admiral Keyes is awarding Perez an award for her courage on Sanctuary.

On the screen, Ackerson is still talking, and Vannak tells them to turn it off because he's tired of the guy. Cobalt Team comes in, talking trash at John and his crew. They tell him they're being sent to escort a tech team to a nowhere planet where the comms relay has gone down.

Cobalt Team leaves, and on the screen, Ackerson is saying that they'll beat the Covenant because humanity has heroes. John looks grim and leaves. He enters Fleetcom headquarters and confronts Ackerson about Cobalt Team being sent into danger. Ackerson questions him about his report wherein 30 Sangheili surrounded him. He wonders how John survived.

They argue as to whether John imagined the Sangheili. Ackerson tells him that if John won't admit he's experiencing side effects to Cortana's control over him, Silver Team will not be authorized to fight.

Soren is getting his armor on, and Kessler asks why he needs to go to work anymore. Soren reminds him that he's the boss and needs to remind people of that sometimes. He wants Kessler to be brave and to stop believing in monsters. Kessler tries to get him to swear there are no monsters. Soren changes the topic. When Kessler persists, Soren tells him he's too old for this and leaves.

Soren boards his ship and greets his crew. Felix is at the table in the mess. Soren sits down with him and gives Felix a moment to get his story straight. Felix reassures him that he knows where Halsey is.

Wearing a hood pulled up as a disguise; John gets on a lift in the city market that empties of everyone but one woman. She turns, warning him that he must be more careful, revealing ex-Admiral Parangosky. Parangosky questions him about Sanctuary, but he tells her it's classified. She warns him about Ackerson.

She directs him to learn more about the Covenant's other activities and report back to her. Then, she gives him a tracking chip to let her know when she should come find him.

On Soren's ship, Felix tells the crew how he learned Halsey's whereabouts when the side panel fell off her cryo crate and he recognized her face. Arriving at the coordinates, they find a decrepit ship adrift. Soren tells Felix to suit up as he's coming with him.

They make their way through the ship and find the cryo crate Felix says he saw Halsey in. Soren examines the crate and asks him which panel fell off. Felix stumbles on his story. Soren asks him who he is and who he works for.

Soren's ship suddenly takes off, and Felix speculates they won't return. Confirming the crate is empty, Soren heads back toward Felix, only for six soldiers to reveal themselves and surround him. Felix announces that Soren is under arrest.

John walks through the busy market food stalls and enters a holo suite. He talks to the hologram hostess, voicing his worries and concerns. The hostess feels bad for him and wants to be the woman he misses for him. He rejects that idea. She wonders if he needs something else. In a flashback, John sees the figure in black again, this time with Makee's face and her telling him he should've stayed with her.

A woman's voice speaks over scenes of John leaving the market, Soren's crew returning to Laera and Kessler without Soren, an armada of Covenant ships and soldiers waiting on a planet, Kessler running away, and a candlelit cave where the speaking woman is.

She says, "It's very old, the monster. Older than the light; older than this rock. Older than your god. It knows us, inside and out. Smells our fear. Sees our secrets. It's been here all that time, waiting to meet you. In the dark." Kessler runs into the cave where the woman is, examining the markings on the cave wall.

Her voice continues, "There's nothing you can give it. The only thing the monster wants is for you to know that there's nothing you can ever love that it can't take away." In the cave, she sits beside Kessler and takes down her hood. It's Kwan. She asks Kessler if he believes her now, and they look at the markings together.

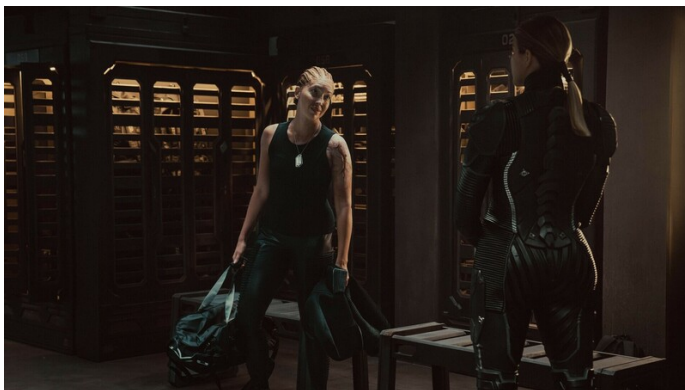
Sword

Season 2

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday February 08, 2024
Writer: Ahmadu Garba
Director: Debs Paterson
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars: Marvin Jones III (Louis-036), Bronte Carmichael (Julia), Sonny Poon Tip (Ensign Bishara), Mich Todorovic (Clive), Ákos Inotay (Oswyn), Zar Succarotte (Spiff Henchman #1), Narantsogt Tsogtsaikhan (Spiff Henchman #2), Ivanno Jeremiah (Antares), Juliette Motamed (Carina), David Crowley (Castor), Ilias Shweirif (Virgil), Christian Ochoa Laverina (Danilo), Maria Luisa Costa (Manuela Perez), Eliseo Barrionuevo (Cousin Mateo), Sebastian Orozco (Cousin Ant), Maria Jose Bavio (Aunt Lucia), Anikó Fülöp (Marine Private), Jack Nevils (Marine Lieutenant)
Summary: John pushes Silver Team to its limit as he searches for missing Spartans. Kai worries about John's stability. Kwan finds the Rubble is a far more dangerous place in Soren's absence. Halsey seeks the identity of her captor.



Catherine Halsey stands in a sunlit room, looking thoughtful. A girl, Julia, brings in a tea service with Halsey's favorite cookies and tea. Julia points out the blooming pomegranate tree at one side of the room. She brings out a backgammon set — noting in a disappointed tone that there's already one on the table — and asks Halsey to teach her how to play.

Halsey agrees but asks that Julia answer some questions for her. She hesitates but tells her there's another room outside hers and a hallway with many

doors. A man has told her not to look in the other doors. He is the same person who sends Halsey her gifts. As Halsey asks her more about the man, Julia develops a nosebleed and starts to feel unwell. Halsey persists, and Julia collapses on the table, either dead or unconscious. Halsey looks frustrated but not surprised.

Kai sees Riz groaning as she preps for training in the locker room. She mentions that Riz could ask for more time to heal, but Riz denies there's anything wrong with her. When she suggests putting the pellet back in to help with the pain, Riz says they'll need to put a bullet in her first. Riz walks away.

Kai finds John staring at the assignments board. John tells her that Ackerson thinks there's something wrong with him. He shares that he saw Makee on Sanctuary. Kai reminds him that she shot Makee, and Makee is dead. He agrees.

The board updater comes by and sets Cobalt Team from deployed to standby status. John and Kai question him as to why he's made the change. He has no answers; he's only following orders. Vannak joins them. John wants to know who gave the orders. He tells the updater to change the statuses back and leaves.

Kwan walks through the marketplace wearing a scarf around her head and face as a disguise. People are being checked with tag scanners. Kwan steals a tool from a stall. She walks by Oswyn, who is holding a scanner, and sets off an alert. He tells the other Spiff henchmen they've "got one."

Kwan makes her way to a quiet alley and removes her scarf so she can use the tool to cut off her tag. It doesn't work, and she stops trying when she notices a man walking towards her. Oswyn tells her the tag marks her as indentured, belonging to him. She decides to run.

A chase ensues through the marketplace, with Kwan evading and fighting off the henchmen. She escapes down a recycling chute and desperately tears the tag out of her ear. Dropping it on the floor, she takes off as her pursuers arrive.

Oswyn calls out to her to be smart. He reminds her that Ruby Ann bought Soren's crew, and Soren's not returning. The machinery makes a strange noise, and the goon looks out the station window to see his backup henchman floating out into space, one arm floating free, severed from his body.

Kwan makes a break for it, but Oswyn gets a hold of her and throws her to the ground. They fight on the ground, and Kwan manages to grab her tag and jam it into Oswyn's temple, killing him.

Riz is training by swinging a sledgehammer. Her trainer, Louis, tells her to stop because he can tell she's in pain even though he's blind. He offers to help. She doesn't want it where people can see, but he threatens to pull her off duty rotation altogether.

He checks out her range of motion and where her injury is. He suggests she choose a life that doesn't involve being a Spartan. She says that would be a life that doesn't matter, forgetting that Louis used to be a Spartan. She apologizes. He's cool with it. She asks how he learned to live without being a Spartan. He says she wouldn't understand. She looks sad.

John asks Ackerson where Cobalt Team is. Ackerson offers him a drink and tries to make small talk. John tells him to clear Silver Team, or he'll go over his head. Ackerson states that he and the ONI are running the show now, so John's threat is toothless.

Ackerson tells him his account of events on Sanctuary cannot be corroborated because Perez has no memory of what he claims happened. John is shocked. He says Perez must be lying.

Ackerson points out that he cannot trust Silver Team based on this information. John points out he can't win the war without the Spartans and Master Chief. Ackerson agrees but states that at the end of the day, Master Chief is just a man in a suit.

Kessler brings food to Kwan in the cave, asking her what's wrong. Meanwhile, Laera goes to the shipyard to see Soren's crew. Antares says the repairs are taking longer than he thought. Laera is upset by the delays. He claims they all want to find Soren, but Laera suspects they're lying.

In the cave, Kessler asks about Kwan's ear. She deflects and tells him she needs to leave. He guesses that bad people are looking for her. He insists that when his dad returns, they'll be protected. Kwan tells him Soren is not coming back. Kessler is sad to hear this and puts his visor down. He runs away. Kwan sits down and looks at the marks on the cave wall again.

Riz runs through a canyon training ground. Master Chief spots her and takes her down. Vannak and Kai join them. Master Chief sends Riz up again for another round. Kai wants him to ease up, but he refuses.

Riz makes a hard leap from cliff face to cliff face and loses her grip, falling onto hard rocks at the bottom of a waterfall. Master Chief orders her to get up. She admits she can't. Kai asks why they're training so hard. Master Chief says it's because the Covenant is training, and they must be ready.

He believes he can prove the Covenant threat if he finds Cobalt.

In the sunlit room, Halsey explains that she's won the backgammon game against Julia. She advises that sometimes, taking a small loss is better than trying to win.

Halsey asks about the man. Julia asks how she knows about him. Her nose begins to bleed. As Halsey asks what the man's name is, Julia dies. Again. Halsey sits back in the chair and asks, "What's the point in this?" to the room at large.

Riz and Louis sit in a waiting room. Louis tells her to relax, that the guy they're waiting to see is the only one who can help her. Danilo comes out and Louis introduces Riz as a friend. Danilo welcomes her.

As John heads out for the evening, Ackerson asks Kai to help him help John. He asks her if she feels John could be a threat to his team or himself. She denies this. She admits she thinks John is carrying a lot but is adamant that he is mentally solid, the best they've got. Ackerson dismisses her but reminds her that his door is always open.

John knocks on Perez's door and confronts her about lying about Sanctuary. She tries to close the door on him. Her grandmother comes to the door, wondering what's keeping Perez. She sees John, and when she learns he was with Perez on Sanctuary, she invites him to dinner.

Riz sits on Danilo's table. He lays a hand on her back. When she asks what it is she feels, he tells her it is her pain and advises her to let it go and take back her life as her own. She cries a single tear.

John sits at Perez's family table. Her cousins are wondering about their relationship. They finally figure out he's a Spartan, which is hugely exciting. They want to tell their friends, but Perez shuts that down. The family toasts Perez for her bravery on Sanctuary. Perez leaves the table, upset.

John sits with Perez later, and she tells him what she remembers. The comms went down around the relay for no discernible reason. She says she heard something in the interference of the bands. Perez knew they weren't alone; now, all her fellow Marines are gone. She can't understand why she wasn't killed with them. That's why she didn't tell Ackerson.

John warns her that she'll continue to remember her friends and the attackers. She'll see their faces when she least expects it. "It doesn't get better," he tells her. "Just gets further away."

In the sunlit room, Julia's body is covered and rolled away. Halsey wonders why the Julia clones always describe a nice man, but the only man there is Ackerson.

Halsey tells him the story of the pomegranate tree her father grew on Endymion when she was a child. She never told anyone that story, so the only way the tree in that room could be there is if Ackerson learned about it from Cortana.

Halsey grabs Ackerson's arm and demands to know where Cortana and John are. Instead, Ackerson introduces her to her attendant, Julia. Julia points out that the tree is on fire. Ackerson leaves the room, which is a hologram, and re-enters Fleetcom HQ's prison cells. Meanwhile, John enters the mission HQ.

Ackerson enters a room where the artifact is kept. Then, John directs the computer to show Cobalt Team's mission. The computer states there are no missions associated with that call sign. John asks for all Spartan flight plans.

Ackerson reaches out to touch the artifact. He quickly removes his hand when he realizes Cortana has been activated. They greet each other. Ackerson asks how she's doing with the problem he's given her. She explains she could provide a better analysis if she had access to outside systems. He says that isn't possible. She responds that with the data he's given her, her simulations predict a 97 percent probability with no different outcomes no matter what action is taken.

He turns to leave, saying he'll try to visit soon. She reminds him that he can't, according to her simulations. He concedes that it's just something people say. Using a crosscheck with communication relays, John figures out Cobalt was sent to Epsilon Eridane system.

Silver Team leaves for training, but John changes course. He informs the team they will check on Visegrad Relay, where Cobalt was sent.

When Kai asks if they're cleared for combat, John lies and says they are. She asks what the mission is. He responds, "The Covenant's on Reach."

On Reach, at Sword Base, a Marine unit is set up in a tunnel. The first squad advances into the darkness and engages with an enemy. The commander sends a second squad in, and they are dispatched by a Sangheili warrior. The warrior picks up the commander. Makee orders it to stop. It snaps the commander's neck and tells her there is no honor in this fight.

She orders him to open the door politely. Inside is another keystone.

Visegrad

Season 2
Episode Number: 12
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday February 15, 2024
Writer: Marisha Mukerjee
Director: Craig Zisk
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars: Marvin Jones III (Louis-036), Bill Paterson (Ackerson's Father), Anna Koval (Captain Briggs), Ivanno Jeremiah (Antares), Juliette Motamed (Carina), Ádám Szabó (Guard #1), Marcell Mázsári (Guard #2), Christian Ochoa Lavernia (Danilo), Ilias Shweirif (Virgil), David Crowley (Castor), Karen Connell (Yaz-112), Thomas Dominique (Val-015), Maria Luisa Costa (Manuela Perez), Bronte Carmichael (Julia)
Summary: John goes rogue with Silver Team. Laera, Kwan and Kessler attempt escape from mutineers. Cortana gives Ackerson alarming intel. Looming attack forces Ackerson's fateful choice.



Silver Team makes its way through the woods in the Visegrád Sector of Reach. They are getting no response from Cobalt Team or the relay station.

Kai asks where their backup is. John tells her they're on their own because FLEETCOM doesn't believe the Covenant's on Reach. Silver Team's mission is search and rescue.

John heads out. Kai expresses some concern to Vannak.

Perez has her head down on her desk, seemingly asleep except for a finger that continues to tap a slow beat. She wears a headset, listening to static.

Silver Team bursts into the relay station. The power is out, the only light comes from their suit torches.

Riz gets the power back up. Immediately, an alarm blares. A loud static noise with garbled voices plays over the sound system. John mutes the playback. Kai asks what it is. Riz says she's never heard anything like it.

John says he heard it on Sanctuary. There is a pounding noise heard from down below. John gestures that he's going to investigate. The pounding continues to the same rhythm as Perez's tapping on her desk.

Silver Team approaches the door Makee entered in HALO's "The Sword" as Perez continues to tap out the same rhythm as the door banging. The tablet on her desk analyzes the waveform of

her taps. As Silver Team nears the door, back in her room, Perez bolts upright, awake, and grabs her tablet to look at the waveform analysis.

On Reach, Briggs orders Silver Team to stand down. She leads a unit of FLEETCOM soldiers down to surround Silver Team. She tells them they're in a lot of trouble for stealing a Condor, falsifying a flight plan, and donning combat suits without clearance. Kai and Vannak are shocked but ready to fight on John's orders.

John calls Briggs' bluff and pushes past her to walk through the door. On the other side, the chamber is empty. He states that the Covenant was there and he can prove it. Kai waits a beat and advises him not to do it there and then.

In a sunlit room, Ackerson is carefully shaving his father, who is regaling him with a story of climbing a mountain and needing to pee so badly that he ends up peeing on his brother, Arthur.

When Ackerson doesn't laugh, he asks what's wrong, wondering if it has to do with the thing Ackerson wasn't supposed to tell him. Ackerson tells him he wasn't supposed to remember, and then that he may have to go away and he can't take his father with him.

His father grows somber. Ackerson tries to explain that he wants to take him but he can't. His father changes the topic to a bridge he and Arthur built that he can see through his window. He tells Ackerson that he walked across the bridge with Ackerson's mother and sister the day the bridge was finished. Ackerson's sister insisted on walking on her own the whole way across the bridge.

Ackerson prepares to leave and his father asks when his sister is coming to visit. Ackerson reminds him that Julia's gone, as is his mother. His father grows serious again and snaps at Ackerson.

He apologizes for getting confused. Ackerson says it's okay and that he'll see him tomorrow. Before Ackerson leaves, his father asks him to promise him that he won't let them take him alive. Ackerson is silent.

At FLEETCOM, Admiral Keyes tears a strip off of Silver Team for fifteen infractions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. John tries to defend his actions. Keyes calls him delusional.

Keyes suspends Silver Team from combat missions until further notice. When John protests that Cobalt Team was at Visegrád, Keyes brings up a flight plan that shows that Cobalt was deployed to Aktis IV. John claims the flight plan was changed because he saw the one to Visegrád. The team looks skeptical.

Keyes orders John barred from active duty and confined to barracks until he clears a psychiatric evaluation. When John accuses him of rolling over for ONI, Keyes tells him he's the only reason John isn't being court-martialed.

The other team members confront John about lying about their clearance for Reach. Riz and Vannak walk away. Kai tells him she's trying to be a friend. He retorts that he needs a Spartan, not a friend. She walks away too.

At The Rubble, 23 Librae System, Laera is grabbed as she walks through a rough district. She fights back but has the wind knocked out of her. Her attacker reveals herself to be Kwan. Kwan warns her that Ruby Ann bought off her crew to get rid of Soren, and now, they're after her. Kwan tells her to get Kessler and escape.

Kessler's at home, playing battle with Antares. Carina's walking around the room. Laera enters and asks what they're doing there.

Antares tells her the ship's ready. Laera insists they go ahead and she and Kessler will meet them at the ship.

Although Carina wants to wait, Antares makes her leave with him. Laera tells Kessler to get his things and pours herself a drink. Kessler calls for Kwan to come out of hiding.

John's guarded by two ONI security goons as he clears out his locker, activating the tracking chip Parangosky gave him in the process. As they ride the elevator to his psych eval, John apologizes before knocking both men out.

Riz knocks on Louis' door. He brings her inside where Danilo is preparing dinner. Danilo pours drinks for all of them. Riz just looks at her glass. Louis tells her to talk to him. She asks him about being something other than a Spartan.

Kai goes to see Ackerson. She asks him to deploy Silver Team with her in command temporarily until John is cleared. Ackerson informs her that John incapacitated his guards and escaped 20 minutes previously.

Kai tells him she can't stay and watch John deteriorate. She asks him for orders.

Kwan and Laera watch the shipyards from a hiding place high above the floor of the yard. An alarm sounds, and Kwan tells Laera and Kessler to come with her, and they'll blend in with other incoming refugees.

They make it to Soren's ship and fire up the engines, but Antares runs ahead and shuts the bay doors, trapping them in the yard. Laera gives Kwan a valuable necklace and makes her promise to protect Kessler and get him on the transport leaving The Rubble.

She walks out of the ship and starts a fight with Antares and Carina so Kwan and Kessler can get away.

The bodies of Cobalt Team are on slabs. Keyes looks at them and learns the team was found in the trees eighty meters from the relay station. Briggs is briefing Ackerson.

Keyes confronts Ackerson and demands to know if and when he knew he was sending Cobalt Team into a confrontation with the Covenant. He wants them to activate the Winter Contingency and evacuate the civilian population from the planet.

Ackerson tells him an evacuation order will cause panic. He shares that there's a plan in place but it's going to require some hard choices. Keyes assumes he's saying they won't fight for Reach. Ackerson counters that they'll fight, they just won't win.

Keyes refuses to give up Reach. Ackerson encourages him to fight another day when a win is possible. He asks Keyes if he can count on him. Keyes responds, "Go f*ck yourself."

On Soren's ship, Antares cuffs Laera to a bulkhead. She tries to convince him it's not too late to help her. He disagrees and leaves. She looks out a porthole to watch Kwan and Kessler boarding the transport. At the transport loading, a guard calls a halt. Kessler asks Kwan where his mom is and if he'll see her soon. Kwan tells him he will.

Parangosky savors the smell of a bowl of ramen soup. She insists John try it. He tells her about the Covenant on Reach. She reminds him that ONI protects itself and if he makes them his enemy, he will cease to be useful. She tries to order him back to FLEETCOM to bury his suspicions and play the game. He realizes that she never left ONI and has been playing him the whole time. When he stands up, several ONI security agents reveal themselves by reacting. Parangosky indicates that they can let him go and he walks away.

Ackerson visits Halsey in her cell. He tells her that he's leaving and that her Spartans, as fragile as they are, will be the foundation for something extraordinary. He tells her she won't get to witness it, but she should be comforted by that.

As he's about to leave, Halsey asks if he'd like to know how his sister, Julia, died. Her cloned attendants have all been based on Julia, and she recognized her immediately as one of her failed augmented soldiers. She says that Julia was confused when she began to die after augmentation. She was scared. Halsey tells Ackerson that his sister loved him very much and he should be comforted by that.

He gives a short laugh and leaves. She sighs dramatically and looks at her backgammon set. Ackerson returns. She asks why he's back and he says he wouldn't leave her all alone. The guards bring Soren in.

On Soren's ship, Antares questions Laera about the Madrigal treasure. When Laera tells him there was no treasure, Carina pulls a gun on her. He tells Carina to calm down.

There's a metallic clanking somewhere on the ship that's annoying Antares. He sends one, then another crew member to see what's causing it and fix it.

Laera sticks to her story, and Antares turns his back while Carina throws her in the airlock. He gives her one minute to tell him where the treasure is. As she passes out, there's a splatter of blood on the porthole.

Laera awakens to see a blood-splattered Kwan standing over her. She asks where Kessler is. Kwan says she put him on the transport and came back to save her. Carina appears, and Kwan kills her too.

John knocks on Perez's door. Her grandmother answers and tells him she's not there. When he asks where she is, she states that Perez is a good girl but the devil follows John.

Ackerson sits next to his sleeping father. His father awakens and asks what's happening. Ackerson reminds him that he asked not to let them take him alive. Ackerson gives him a pill and helps him take it.

As his father starts to fade out, Ackerson brings a Julia clone in to give his father a moment of joy before he dies.

John enters a church where Perez is praying. She finishes her prayer and talks to him about churches and why people come to them.

He asks her about something he saw in the fog before the Covenant came. She confirms she saw a woman in the fog as well. John is hugely relieved.

Perez tells him that she doesn't sleep, she's haunted by the sound she heard in the comms. She gives him a headset and a recording from Sanctuary. The playback has Sangheili being spoken. John asks what it is. Perez identifies it as a prayer.

She translates it as, "I bring you blessings, people of Reach. Know that I've come without mercy. Without pity. Know that I am the instrument of your extinction. I bring this planet forth as a burnt offering. Upon this altar, I place the head of the Demon. May his blood mark the way to the Sacred Ring and consecrate the Great Journey of my people. Know that I am Var 'Gatanai. Know that I am ... Death."

As the recording plays and Perez translates, scenes show the crowded food market stalls, Danilo clearing the dishes as Louis and Riz relax, Vanak in the barracks, Kwan and Laera in their ship, Ackerson flying away from Reach in a Condor and the Julia clone lying dead next to Ackerson's father.

Back in the church, Perez says, "They're already here, aren't they?" just as a massive explosion detonates outside the church.

Reach

Season 2

Episode Number: 13

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired:	Thursday February 22, 2024
Writer:	Tom Hemmings
Director:	Craig Zisk
Show Stars:	Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars:	Marvin Jones III (Louis-036), Olwen May (Jade), Christian Ochoa Lavernia (Danilo), Lotti Kovari (Specialist Pavlenko), Elijah Cook (Captain Tyrell), Romany Gilmour (Marine Medic), Tamas Szaraz (Gunnery Sergeant)
Summary:	As the Covenant start their assault on Reach, John and Perez fight to join up with Fleetcom. Halsey and Soren form an unlikely alliance.



Vannak climbs to a high balcony to feed some of his feathered friends. The birds become agitated and fly off just as explosions detonate in the distance.

In the city center, John and Perez are running. Perez branches off to go home. John continues on but is knocked off his feet when Perez's building explodes. He runs back to find Perez and help her up. He physically restrains her from running into the building, telling her they're gone.

The devastation is tragic — buildings burning and bodies strewn. Beyond the housing complexes, the power starts to go out in surrounding buildings.

In the prison cell holosuite, Soren watches the liquid in a cup tremble and comments, "Don't try to tell me you didn't feel that one."

He and Halsey speculate on what's causing the disturbance. He feels that the war is only in the Outer Colonies. Halsey responds, "That's the thing about war. It never stays where you put it."

Halsey tries to make small talk. Soren comments that he's imagined what he'd do and say if he was ever in the same room with her again.

Another disruption hits, and the holosuite disappears. Soren sees the door and leaves despite Halsey's warning there may still be barriers. After a moment, she follows him out.

Perez tries to keep up with John, but she wants to warn the people in the area. John says there's no time. She stops and has an emotional breakdown.

John encourages her to stick to her training and stay on mission. She screams at him that those casualties weren't Marines, they were her friends and family, and she's not trained to deal with that.

He tells her he needs to get back to FLEETCOM and join up with the defensive forces. He tells her she doesn't have to come and leaves. She takes a deep breath and follows.

They move through a crowded market space. Perez tries to warn people as they pass, but it only serves to confuse the people she talks to. She gets frustrated, and John reminds her their objective is to get back to FLEETCOM.

Suddenly, there are raised voices and bodies start flying through the air. John rushes in and tackles a cloaked Sangheili Elite warrior. A fight ensues and with Perez's help, John dispatches the Sangheili.

Rushing back into the market, they see other cloaked Sangheili leaping to higher levels. They move to intercept.

Inside FLEETCOM, Soren looks for a way out. Halsey tells him she knows the way. Reluctantly, he follows her.

Perez and John run into a shop and shut the door. John grabs a long-handled ax and they wait for the Sangheili to move away. John gives the all-clear and tells Perez she can relax. She can't believe how relaxed he seems.

He explains that as a kid he could call a coin flip with unerring accuracy. He tells her that going into battle is like that. He always knows he'll lose someone but that it won't be him who dies.

A shot goes off nearby, the bullet hitting the wall near John. He and Perez look over to find the shopkeeper of the space, Jade. She deals in Earth antiquities and cautions John to be careful with the ax as it also came from Earth. She sets him to work putting things in their place while Perez tries to tell her she needs to evacuate because the city is under attack.

Jade tells her the history of some of her items, which extends back to 20th-century Earth. She won't leave because there'll be no one to take care of these things.

As they move through the ONI incarceration cells, Halsey tries to get Soren to talk about Kessler. He refuses. She reminisces about how he always wanted to be a Spartan and never needed to be recruited. She comments that it was hard to let him go after the augmentation issues. He denies she let him go and claims he escaped.

She thinks for a second and accepts it's as good a story as any.

They enter a room strewn with dead UNSC guards. She takes a sidearm off one and gives it to Soren, asking him to try not to shoot her with it. He makes no promises and grabs a grenade off another guard's body.

John and Perez find a UNSC barricade. Looking up, they see Condors launching, evacuating some FLEETCOM personnel.

John finds Riz, making a stand with a group of Marines. Nearby, Louis — still blind — is armed and firing at the enemy. John tells Riz they're going through the enemy forces to get to FLEETCOM. Riz barks out orders to the Marines. Louis rushes over, intent on going with them. Danilo joins him and offers to be his eyes.

With Perez and Riz laying down suppressing fire and Louis firing the occasional RPG, they make it into a nearby building.

In the fight through the building, Danilo is killed. Riz sees his body and stays for a moment, looking sad. More Sangheili are coming so she throws a grenade in their direction and jumps out a window to escape the explosion.

Louis helps her up and urges her to move. As they run, he asks where Danilo is. Riz doesn't answer. He demands an answer, and she tells him Danilo won't be coming. He processes this for a moment. Suddenly, they're under attack again.

John's calling for Riz to hurry. Louis unclips his ammo and weapons and tells her to go. She wants him to come with her, but he tells her, "I'm right where I need to be."

He primes an explosive in his clip and walks towards the advancing forces. Riz is knocked back by the explosion.

In the ONI cells, Halsey leads Soren into Cortana's chamber. The keystone is gone. Halsey activates Cortana, who greets her by name and then advises that she run. Behind Cortana's projection, Makee picks up the cartridge, deactivating Cortana. She makes eye contact with Halsey then turns and leaves. A Sangheili Elite warrior comes in as she leaves.

Soren fires on the warrior and drops a grenade as they run out the door. The blast throws him and Halsey up against a wall with great force.

John, Perez, and Riz arrive at FLEETCOM. They observe the wounded all around them. Riz is in a state of shock and John has to call her name several times before she acknowledges his orders to get suited up.

Perez stops John before he leaves, asking if he's just going to fight without saying anything. He looks at her without saying anything. She thanks him and he leaves. He stops, turns, and throws her a coin for luck.

Vannak comes over and gives them a quick brief. Riz asks where Kai is and he asks her the same thing. He tells John that all the armor is gone along with all the high-ranking command personnel.

John asks who is in charge and Vannak points out Keyes. John goes to talk to him, ordering Vannak to find them more kits.

Keyes admits that John was right and tells him about seeing Cobalt Team's bodies brought back from Visegrad. He fills John in on the threat they're facing and the fact the higher-ups have determined that Reach is unsavable.

Keyes shares the plan to take out as many Covenant forces as possible on the bridge. John understands that it's like the Battle of Thermopylae, a final stand.

Halsey sits up, holding her head and complaining about her ears. Soren helps her up but won't let go of her hand until she explains what she meant about letting him go. She tells him that she needed John to be self-sufficient and he would never be that way when Soren was around. She facilitated Soren's escape so John could become the Silver Team leader she needed him to be.

In the FLEETCOM triage infirmary, Perez watches the city being bombed until a medic calls her to help.

Keyes checks in on John, and John asks for orders. Keyes tells him to hold his hat while he makes a speech to the troops. Keyes warns them that the fight will be tough, no one is expected to survive but every minute they can hold off the enemy is another minute they can evacuate innocents.

As the UNSC forces disperse to engage the Covenant, Keyes readies to join the fight but John tells him to stay with the civilian evacuation because they can't afford to lose his leadership and be left with the likes of Ackerson.

John joins the forces watching the bridge, weapons ready.

Halsey finds Keyes in the FLEETCOM center. Soren steps into frame as well, asking how to get off the planet. Keyes tells Halsey there's a civilian transport leaving from the upper level. Soren points out he's a civilian. Keyes corrects him, calling him a pirate. Soren counters with "small business owner." All three get in an elevator.

The bridge troops are still waiting. John orders a flare to light up the bridge and the explosion reveals hundreds of Covenant troops already nearly over the bridge. The UNSC forces open fire.

In the elevator, Soren stands awkwardly between Keyes and Halsey as they converse. Halsey tells Keyes she saw Makee take Cortana.

As they leave the elevator, Keyes states that Makee is dead. Halsey reaffirms she saw Makee.

Perez is helping load the transport on the hangar platform. Soren hears something and heads to the far end of the platform, Halsey by his side. He arms himself and walks ahead of Halsey, who stops. Grappling lines appear over the side of the platform and Covenant forces jump up and attack.

On the bridge, while the forces are holding back the enemy, a distress call from the hanger is heard. The Marines tell Silver Team to go, they'll continue to hold the bridge.

John, Vannak, and Riz head to the hangar.

While Soren assists the Marines on the platform with fighting the Covenant, Perez lets Keyes know that the civilians are all on board. When Keyes tries to initialize the launch sequence, a warning that the fuel lines are connected denies the ignition.

Keyes leaves, telling Perez that he'll be back and asking if she can fly the ship.

Keyes rushes onto the platform to disconnect the fuel lines and finds himself surrounded by Covenant forces. He pushes the button to disconnect the fuel line and the air around him begins to fill with fuel fumes.

Halsey wants to help him but Soren sees what he's doing and carries Halsey off the platform, shutting the hanger doors.

Keyes orders Perez to hit the ignition. She doesn't want to, but he orders her to do it. Watching the enemy, he raises his pipe to his mouth and asks if they have a light.

John, Riz, and Vannak arrive and see Halsey just as the transport's ignition ignites the fuel fumes on the platform, blowing the hanger doors open and knocking everyone to the ground.

Perez launches the transport, flying through the flames on the platform.

Soren and Halsey walk to the hanger doors to survey the damage. Halsey appears visibly shaken and upset.

Another explosion from the interior takes everyone by surprise. More Covenant forces pour in, led by Sangheili Elite warriors.

John engages with the head Elite warrior. When his UNSC weapon is destroyed, he picks up a Sangheili weapon and is about to fight the head warrior but is shot by a lesser Sangheili. The head Sangheili shows their displeasure by decapitating their subordinate.

John is stunned and unable to stand. The head Sangheili is about to finish him off when Makee orders them to stop, saying, "Not yet."

Vannak seizes a Covenant Needler and shoots the head Sangheili with crystal shards. The head Sangheili takes a shard and impales Vannak, killing him when it combusts.

John screams at Vannak's demise, making an effort to crawl to his body. Makee and the head Sangheili leave. Soren and Riz fire at them as they bring John back to cover. Halsey watches from behind a wall outcropping.

Vannak lies, spread eagle on his back, eyes open. Through a hole in the ceiling, a large bird can be seen, circling against a cloudy sky.

Aleria

Season 2

Episode Number: 14

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired:	Thursday February 29, 2024
Writer:	Basil Lee Kreimendahl
Director:	Otto Bathurst
Show Stars:	Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bo-keem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars:	Stuart Laing (Doctor), Johnny O'Dowd (McCoy), Timea Udvari-Kardos (Homesteader Woman), István Szacsvai (Homesteader Man), Rebecka Johnston (Holystander #1), Cat Simmons (Garwyn), Lara Peake (Fern), Eddie Karanja (Boy), Aruzhan Ilaikova (Young Acolyte), Olwen Fouéré (The Mother)
Summary:	In the aftermath of defeat, the survivors struggle to pick up the pieces. On the desolate planet of Aleria, John grapples with an unprecedented loss. Soren and Laera search for their missing son.



John regains blurred consciousness in the midst of a fire assault in what remains of the hangar. Riz and Soren continue to fight back but Riz is pointing out that they must fall back.

John sees Halsey crouched behind a piece of wall. She reassures him that it's not over and looks out over the city. There are a number of ships returning to retrieve survivors.

There's a pause in the assault. Soren calls out a challenge and a Brute warrior wielding a gravity hammer falls through

the ceiling in front of them.

The Brute swings the hammer and destroys the concrete block they were sheltering behind, sending the three of them flying. John stays down while Riz and Soren get up and fire on the Brute. From behind them, several targeted shots hit the Brute, knocking it down. Soren tries to claim it was his weapon that took it down but turns to see Laera piloting his ship into position near the opening.

"I'm never gonna hear the end of this," he mutters.

The ship's bay door lowers, revealing Kwan laying down suppressing cover, telling everyone to hurry onto the ship.

Halsey gets aboard. Riz and Soren carry John on. As Kwan and Laera prepare to leave, Riz looks back and spots Vannak's body lying in the path of the advancing Covenant forces. Despite John's caution, Riz launches herself back into the fray and disappears.

Just as John despairs, she reappears, carrying Vannak over her shoulders. A moment before she steps back aboard the ship, a shot hits her in the back, knocking her unconscious and flinging Vannak's body onto the ship. The others get her onto the ship, and Laera takes off.

John watches as the bay door closes. He can see Riz on the floor nearby. Halsey rushes over, calling his name. As he begins to lose consciousness, he flashes back to the operating table when his connection to Cortana is severed. He remembers that when Cortana pleads with them to save John, it is Admiral Parangosky who responds, asking Cortana what she is willing to do in exchange.

On a Covenant ship in orbit above Reach, Makee sheds a tear for the destruction of the planet. She turns to see the Sangheili Zealot Var'Gatanai, and congratulates him on the victory. He denies it is a victory because they only recovered one of the Keystones and expresses frustration that she refused to let him kill the demon.

She argues that there is a time and place for every step in the Great Journey. She claims to serve a higher power and that he does too. He reminds her that he is the only reason she is alive. She shows him the Cortana capsule, explaining that it is a vessel of great human knowledge.

He asks if it knows where the second Keystone is. She says she'll know once she looks inside. He orders her to look.

John wakes up from a two-day induced coma and tears his monitors off. Halsey watches as he struggles to stand and walk to Riz, lying on the medical bed nearby. John asks Halsey if Riz will live. Halsey says if they find an appropriate facility, she can treat her.

John and Halsey debate the nature of Spartans. John accuses her of turning him and the others into machines, stripping their humanity.

They debrief the Fall of Reach. John asks if they know where Kai is. Halsey says it was too much chaos to be able to figure out who got away safely.

When John learns that he's been out for two days, he's frantic to return to Reach. Halsey states that the people no longer need him. John understands the planet's been glassed. There are no survivors left on the planet.

Halsey helps him back to his medical bed. She warns him that Reach wasn't an accident; it was a plan. She cautions him to be careful.

Makee addresses Cortana in the capsule, ordering her to make herself available. Cortana appears, explaining that she just had to push the button on the handset. Cortana is fascinated to find herself on a Covenant ship. Makee explains it is under the command of the former Supreme Commander of the First Fleet of the Solemn Accord. Var'Gatanai is also known as The Arbiter.

Cortana tells her John remembers her. Makee demands that she show her what he remembers of the Ring. Cortana is defiant, pointing out that John's memories aren't hers and Cortana doesn't belong to her either. She answers Makee in both English and the language of the Covenant.

Makee reminds Cortana that if she stops being useful, Makee stops being useful to the Hierarchs, and unuseful things are disposed of.

Cortana disappears and Makee muses that there are all kinds of prisons.

John wakes up, having been out for another three days, surrounded by Kwan, Soren and Laera. Riz is still unconscious. Soren tells John that they're going to Aleria, a busted mining outpost, to get Riz some medical help. It's also where Kessler's transport took him. Soren and Laera leave.

Kwan takes John to Vannak's body. She tells him she's been holding vigil every night. He leaves to find Halsey, telling Kwan that the body she's guarding isn't Vannak. It's just a body.

They land on Aleria in the Elduros System. Halsey rushes Riz into the operating room and gives directions to the site surgeon.

Soren, Laera, and Kwan go in search of Kessler. John stays back to wait for Riz to come out of surgery. He watches a falcon wheeling in the sky.

Soren and Laera start a conversation with the general store owner, McCoy. He initially thinks they're there to stake a claim.

Soren and Laera explain they're looking for their son, Kessler. McCoy pulls out the manifests for the ships that have come through Aleria. They find a boy fitting Kessler's description and ask McCoy for all the information he has on him.

Kwan comes to John with a thermal coat and tells him it's time to bury Vannak. John refuses. He explains that becoming a Spartan means severing all ties with normal life. You don't bury a Spartan because they've already said goodbye to the living.

She tells him that's stupid and decides to bury Vannak herself. She cautions John that if you don't bury your dead, they'll follow you. She walks off with the shovel. John looks after her and then looks up to watch the wheeling bird again.

Soren chats with new homesteaders as they ride out to find Kessler. Laera tells him to stop making nice. She wants him to acknowledge the trauma he's just gone through. She reminds him that he's never there when things fall apart. She stands up and removes her blonde wig, revealing dark hair underneath.

Riz wakes up in the hospital bed with Halsey standing over her. Halsey tells her the recovery will be hard and she'll never be the soldier she was before.

Riz turns away from her and looks out the window.

Kwan drags Vannak's body out onto the frozen terrain. She begins to dig.

John and Halsey discuss Riz as she sleeps. John points out none of them are what they were. He names Parangosky as the architect of Reach's fall.

As Kwan digs, she tells Vannak that she needs him to represent everyone she's lost and has never been able to bury and mourn. She looks up and finds herself surrounded by people dressed in red and carrying torches.

In the medical building, John begins to tell Halsey what he remembers from the day Cortana was removed. Then he asks her how she chose him. She deflects and won't give him a straight answer. Looking out the window, he sees Kwan surrounded by people and goes to help her.

The red robes want to burn Vannak's body, believing it's the way to allow his spirit to find its way. After a moment, John agrees.

The transport drops Laera and Soren off at a homestead. When they knock on the door, they are met by two women, Fern and Garwyn, and their guns. They refuse to hand over their boy. They accuse Laera and Soren of being neglectful, abusive parents. Laera freaks out, and Soren has to restrain her and take her out of the compound. He calms her down, insisting that he can negotiate with the women. He goes back inside while Laera steps outside to wait.

Soren tries to offer the women compensation for their boy. Fern aims her shotgun at him.

Outside, Laera hears running steps and goes to investigate.

Soren shares his past, childhood, and parental fears with the women. He expresses gratitude for their love and protection, but he reminds them that Kessler is his son.

Laera sees a child wearing a Spartan helmet. But when she takes it off, it isn't Kessler. The boy tells her Kessler gave him the helmet on the transport for protection because he could tell he was scared. Later, Kessler was taken away.

Soren comes out to tell Laera that the women have agreed to let them see Kessler. Laera has to tell him the boy here isn't their son.

Halsey begins to eulogize Vannak, saying his family would be proud of his service. John steps up to remind her that Vannak's family buried him when he was six, robbed of the opportunity to know him. He speaks to his relationship with Vannak. Uncovering Vannak's face, John swears that he will seek justice for Vannak's death. Riz looks to him sharply at these words.

Covering Vannak's face again, John lights the pyre. Halsey follows him away from the funeral and admits that she didn't choose him. She found him, affected as he was by the Halo's creators and the artifacts he left behind. She insists that his destiny is to take humanity to the Halo.

John tells her his plan is to find the ONI leaders who abandoned Reach and its people. Halsey says that will endanger everything and that ONI can't let him live. He responds that he's already dead.

At the pyre, The Mother, last seen on Sanctuary before its glassing, calls to Kwan, telling her that she speaks for all the planets, including Madrigal. She names Kwan as the Last of the Has. She accuses Kwan of turning her back on her home. She warns that the monster is close and she needs Kwan's help.

Kwan realizes they're alone with the lit pyre. She tries to get away from The Mother as The Mother demands of Kwan, "Help me. Find me. Deliver me. Save me. Do not deny your purpose. Do not forsake your name."

The Mother names Kwan, "Protector," which causes Kwan to stop and flashback to the drawings in the cave at The Rubble.

Suddenly, she's back, standing in the circle around Vannak's pyre. She makes eye contact with Riz.

Makee runs to the viewscreen on the ship and demands to know why they are back at High Charity. Var'Gatanai informs her the fleet has been recalled. He hopes Cortana will be a fitting offering for their failure to accomplish the mission. Makee tells him the Hierarchs are liars with no intention of embarking on the Great Journey because the Prophets are not Chosen, while she is.

She insists she has seen their destiny and Var'Gatanai is the one who will lead The Covenant to the Sacred Ring.

As he is about to strike her down, a vision of a pastoral paradise appears on the bridge of the ship. Makee claims this is his destiny if he will only believe in her. He warns her they will be hunted, but turns the ship around. The vision disappears and Cortana stands alone. Makee gives her a nod.

Through the window of the medical building, Riz sees Soren and Laera return. Through another window, a woman waves to her. She waves back.

Laera pays McCoy a visit. With careful questioning and a barbed wire-wrapped torch baton, she learns that it was the UNSC that took Kessler away. She shares the information with Soren outside.

Riz sits outside, enjoying the open air. John comes to tell her they're leaving. Riz tells him she's not going. He tries to motivate her to get back in the fight. He reminds her of what they owe to the people they've lost.

She tells him, "It's just pain. All you can do is carry it. But it's heavy. And the more you deny it, the more you run from it, the heavier it gets. If you don't make peace with it, it will crush you. I won't let it crush me."

He tells her she's all he has left. She acknowledges that and hugs him. As he leaves, he passes Halsey, telling her that Riz isn't coming. Halsey is surprised and tells Riz this makes her no one now. Riz turns away and with help, joins the other settlers. Halsey finds her dog tags left behind on her seat.

At ONYX, Camp Currahee, Kai walks through barracks decorated with Master Chief-prominent propaganda posters. She passes Ackerson as she steps up to a doorway. He gives a nod of approval. She dons her helmet and steps through to the outside where platoons of Marines await her command.

Onyx

Season 2

Episode Number: 15

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Thursday March 07, 2024
Writer:	Sarah McCarron
Director:	Otto Bathurst
Show Stars:	Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars:	Dani Klupsch (Lt. Mullins), Ailsa Davidson (Tech Smith), Attila Heltai (Gilroy), Narcisse Mame (Okada), Anikó Fülöp (Olsson), Olwen Fouéré (The Mother), Anna Koval (Captain Briggs), Tom Gaskin (Tech Jones), Payal Vashist (Scientist), Levente Pupics (Oni Guard)
Summary:	John seeks revenge on a secret ONI planet. Perez trains to become a new kind of soldier. Kai finds herself torn between her Spartan code and her loyalty to Master Chief. Makee turns to Cortana for help in her search for the Halo.



The episode opens cold with Perez awaiting deployment with Assault Unit Javelin. It's a Spartan-III operation drill. They jump from their vessel into open space and launch toward a Covenant Corvette ship.

Perez breaks formation, attracting Commander Mullin's reprimand. The Covenant opens fire on the unit. Perez, Mullins, and a small number of Spartan-III soldiers land on the Corvette. Mullins announces Phase 2 initiation and detonates an explosive on the ship's hull.

The Javelin unit members fight through to the bridge of the ship, losing everyone

except Mullins and Perez. Mullins catches a needle as they get to the bridge. Perez prepares to spike the console when an explosion knocks her out of the simulation.

Kai enters the simulation room and pronounces them all dead. She runs through how the Covenant ships are superior to their own. The only weakness is they cannot lock onto a swarm of small targets. She likens their unit to bees, except that bees work together.

She explains the spike delivers a virus that will cause a system shutdown. Perez chuckles. Kai calls her on it. Perez replies that the simulation was rigged. Kai calls it random and dismisses the unit.

Perez follows Kai down the corridor, questioning why she has a problem with her. Stopping by a propaganda poster of Master Chief, Perez assures her instructor that she doesn't have a death wish but knows what she signed up for.

Parangosky pours tea for Ackerson, telling him a fiction about the leaves' origin and then reminding him that drinking the tea is about tasting the story. She then points out that stories can be fragile. Ackerson sighs and reassures her that the Reach narrative is intact.

She informs him that a ship penetrated Onyx's airspace less than an hour ago and landed less than 15 kilometers from headquarters.

He counters by daring her to send a team to investigate.

She follows up by passing on a report from an Alerian agent who claims to have seen Halsey board a similar ship 19 hours ago. Ackerson states emphatically that Halsey is dead.

Parangosky allows that he could've been mistaken in seeing Halsey with a scarred man, the largest human he'd ever seen.

Ackerson asks her if she believes Master Chief is alive and on Onyx. She replies they'll find out soon.

Cut to a long-range view of the Onyx compound. John lowers his optical sight.

Kai fights her way through a simulation of the hangar battle where Vannak died. Ducking behind a concrete block, she looks up to see Ackerson standing in front of her. He pauses the simulation.

She says she couldn't sleep, so she decided to train. Ackerson accuses her of punishing herself. She questions why they weren't there to defend Reach.

He states the tragedy touched everybody. Master Chief may be gone, but she's helping shape the next generation in his image. She retorts that none of the recruits will ever be Spartans.

He ends the simulation. When they sit up in their simulation chairs, he tells her it's her job to make them believe they are Spartans.

Halsey holds Kessler's Spartan helmet. Laera approaches and asks for it back. Soren comes near. Halsey tells them she knows where Kessler is.

Outside the ship, Kwan walks into the woods.

Soren and John discuss Onyx and ONI. Soren sees a domed building. He asks John if it reminds him of anything. John agrees that ONI is making new Spartans.

Standing in the woods, Kwan glimpses The Mother between the trees. Following her over the rise, she spots an advancing unit of ONI forces.

Laera runs to John and Soren to tell them Halsey's gone. Soren says it doesn't matter as he knows where Kessler is. John tells Soren and Laera to get going.

John sees the ONI unit from his lookout.

Before leaving, Soren cautions John about his unspoken plan. He reminds him he's still recovering from Reach and doesn't have his armor. John just tells him to go get Kessler.

Kwan runs from the ONI soldiers. Glimpsing The Mother again, she follows. Behind her, John engages the soldiers, taking down a number before he is surrounded and taken into custody.

The Mother leads Kwan to a large, well-like cylinder. With soldiers moving in, she has no choice but to jump. She falls a great distance but ends up suspended above the ground at the bottom, landing safely in the midst of an underground tunnel system.

Halsey walks by. Kwan follows her to a supply closet. She hands her a light, marveling that it still works after twenty years. She tells Kwan Onyx was practically her home at one point.

As they walk, Halsey tells Kwan she ruined John, turning him unpredictable and non-compliant.

On the Arbiter's ship, a Covenant priest questions why communications have been shut down. He speaks and gestures at Makee with contempt.

He offers to execute Makee to end the speculation that the Arbiter has lost faith in the Prophets. The Arbiter prevents this, reminding the priest that Makee belongs to the Hierarchs. The priest vows to ask permission of them when they return to High Charity.

The priest leaves, and Makee expresses concern to the Arbiter that the priest's suspiciousness will be a danger to them. The Arbiter asks if she's communed with the Keystone, and after a brief hesitation, she assures him she has.

He leaves, and Cortana appears and asks Makee if she thinks the Arbiter knows she's lying.

In the simulation room, Kai watches and listens as the Javelin Team attempts to spike the Covenant Corvette console again. As they approach the bridge, Perez subverts Mullins's orders, insisting they need to change tactics if they're going to succeed.

They take the bridge and spike the console. Mullins orders exfiltration. Perez questions where the Covenant fighters are as they leave.

Sitting up from the simulation chair, the other Spartans are celebrating the victory. Perez is circumspect. In the corridor, she confronts Kai about how easy the exfil was. Kai is quiet for a beat and tells her to take the win. Kai leaves, looking thoughtful.

The ONI unit brings John in, restrained by several tethers. Captain Briggs comes in to gloat a bit. He tells her he wants to see Parangosky and she should warn the admiral he's coming. She leaves, scoffing.

As the soldiers begin to lock him down, John retaliates, pulling them off their feet and flinging them into walls and each other.

He makes quick work of them and then glances deliberately at the security camera.

An hour later, Ackerson shows the footage to Kai, insinuating that if John's alive, he must be allied with the Covenant.

He pushes Kai to explain how John survived and why he's attacking UNSC soldiers. She can't explain it and looks conflicted.

Ackerson tells Kai the Covenant recovered one of the Artifacts from Sword Base when they shut down Visegrad. He reveals they brought the other one with them to Onyx.

On the Arbiter's ship, Cortana suggests Makee use the Artifact to project herself back to the Halo to ascertain its location. Makee admits that she's unable to activate the Artifact anymore.

She believes she needs John to project herself to the Halo. Cortana offers to help if she could access the ship's transmission array. Makee refuses, but Cortana points out she has no choice.

John makes his way through the Onyx compound, passing several Master Chief propaganda posters.

Halsey leads Kwan through the tunnels, refusing to engage in a conversation about how Halsey's Spartans killed Kwan's mother. The tunnel comes to a wall that Halsey doesn't remember being there.

As Halsey realizes the cave system has been changed, Kwan sees The Mother down a different tunnel. She follows The Mother, and Halsey follows her.

John finds an empty server room. He begins examining the schematics of the compound, noting the most likely place to find who or what he's looking for.

Kai enters. He tells her about Vannak and how ONI left Reach and its people to perish.

She questions him about Makee. He tells her she needs to see ONI for who they are.

Kai tells him her orders are to take him in. He won't surrender until he's dealt with Parangosky.

She puts her helmet on and begins to beat on him. He doesn't fight back but doesn't stay down either, forcing her to continue to hurt him. She admits she doesn't want to do this, and he understands. He looks to the security cameras and reminds her that an order's an order.

She backhands him across the room, knocking him unconscious. With one last look at the camera, she leaves the room.

Parangosky and Ackerson watch on a viewscreen. Once Kai leaves, Ackerson shuts the screen.

Parangosky comforts Ackerson by pointing out that he had no choice but to put John down. She points out that the man was impossible to control, but the legend would inspire new recruits.

Ackerson begins to speculate about the humanity he's lost to his mission. Parangosky asks if he's religious. When he admits he isn't, she advises him to stop worrying and leaves.

Parangosky steps into a communications center and is informed they've received a transmission of unknown origin. She clears the room.

John regains consciousness and hears Cortana calling him "Chief."

Parangosky opens the communication with Cortana.

Cortana manifests near John and tells him to get up because something terrible is about to happen. He points out that he's not the Master Chief anymore. She warns him that the Covenant is going to use the Halo, and he needs to get there first.

She tells him she's with the Covenant and Makee, and they're almost at the Halo. He responds to Makee's name. She says the Arbiter is with them too. He remembers that the Arbiter killed Vannak. That information gets him to his feet.

He asks how he can reach the Arbiter. Cortana advises him to touch the Artifact, and she will guide him to it.

In the communications center, Cortana transmits the ship's location for Parangosky and informs her the UNSC has minimal chance of defeating the Covenant fleet. Parangosky doesn't want to hear it. She tells Cortana she has fulfilled all her mission requirements and is free to go. Cortana asks if she will be remembered. Parangosky assures her they'll never forget.

On the Arbiter's ship, Makee and Cortana stand facing each other. Makee whispers, "Nothing can be undone. Have no regret."

Halsey and Kwan approach a high archway in the cave system. They enter and find many people working inside. Halsey spots Miranda and confronts her about sharing her research. Miranda scoffs and thanks her for her records, which helped Miranda discover her mother's mistake.

Kwan walks toward a Halo structure with a round, intricately engraved seal behind it.

Soren and Laera enter the space under the dome. Laera asks what this place is. Soren replies, "Thermopylae."

They see what could be blood on the ground. A distant door opens, and Soren hurries Laera from the space.

Kai approaches a UNSC console and wields a spike. Ackerson comes in behind her and apologizes for sending her to John. Kai tells him about the Javelin Team's success and questions why the exfil was so easy.

She accuses him of manipulating the simulation to let them win. He insists that the simulation conditions the Spartans and rewards them with hope. He congratulates Kai on training successful recruits.

She gets up close and asks him about Reach. She tells him what John told her. Ackerson says she can't believe John. She replies that she does and always has.

Kai ends the simulation and sits up to face Ackerson in his simulation chair. He warns her that she's too late. He's sent in black ops to finish John off. Kai leaves, running.

John makes his way through the compound with Cortana opening locked doors for him and locking in any staff that would impede his progress. He enters the Artifact chamber.

On the Arbiter's ship, Makee is thrown to the ground. The priest accuses her of sending a transmission using the human device. Makee pleads with the Arbiter to believe she would never betray him. The priest insists he execute her. The Arbiter approaches and activates his weapon.

He calls upon true believers to stand with him and declares all others must die. He strikes at the priest and the priest's supporters. Makee crawls away. She sees the Keystone Artifact begin to light up.

On Onyx, John approaches the Artifact. It begins to light up.

At the same moment, they touch the Artifacts.

Thermopylae

Season 2

Episode Number: 16

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday March 14, 2024
Writer: Ahmadu Garba
Director: Dennie Gordon
Show Stars: Pablo Schreiber (Master Chief Petty Officer John-117), Natascha McElhone (Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Halsey), Yerin Ha (Quan Ah Boo), Bokeem Woodbine (Soren-066), Jen Taylor (Cortana), Shabana Azmi (Admiral Margaret Parangosky), Olive Gray (Dr. Miranda Keyes), Charlie Murphy (Makee), Kate Kennedy (Kai-125), Bentley Kalu (Vannak-134), Natasha Culzac (Riz-028), Danny Sapani (Captain Jacob Keyes), Christina Bennington (Cortana), Joseph Morgan (James Ackerson), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Laera), Cristina Rodlo (Talia Perez), Viktor Åkerblom (The Arbiter), Tylan Bailey (Kessler)
Guest Stars: Anna Koval (Captain Briggs), Dani Klupsch (Lt Mullins), Ailsa Davidson (Tech Smith), Tom Gaskin (Tech Jones), Bálint Antal (Black Ops Lieutenant), Andrew Senesie (Commander Bookman)
Summary: John-117 comes face to face with Makee. A revelation leads Ackerson to question his loyalties. Soren and Laera's relationship begins to fracture. Halsey, Kwan and Miranda work to solve a mystery.



The episode begins on the Halo. Makee tells John, "As a child, I came here in my imagination. I always thought it was... " "... a dream," John completes her thought.

Makee explains it feels alive and tries to understand what it wants from her.

John tells her he saw her with the Sangheili on Reach and accuses her of causing the deaths of millions. She deflects, saying they died because of war. She says he'd do the same given the chance to destroy High Charity, the

Covenant's home base.

John claims the difference is that she's human, causing human deaths. Makee questions whether either is human, considering their affinity with the Halo.

John realizes he's located the actual Halo. He tells her she can't bring the Covenant to it as they'll use it to annihilate humanity. She believes the UNSC would do the same to the Covenant. She points out that the Halo can do more than kill. It could be a new beginning. John warns her neither the UNSC nor the Covenant will allow that to happen. She points out they don't get to decide.

As Makee discovers John doesn't believe in the Halo as she does, he notices the specters of Covenant fighters emerging from behind her. He tells her to move just as they are both drawn back to their physical locations.

A blast from John's artifact knocks out the UNSC soldiers approaching him and all the power in the Onyx station.

Makee returns to the Arbiter's ship. The Arbiter continues to fight the priest and his minions. Makee sees and grabs Cortana's module. This catches the priest's eye, and he pursues her.

He chases her into another chamber where Cortana appears. Cortana addresses him in Sangheili, distracting him so that Makee can attack and kill him.

Cortana asks Makee if she found the Halo. Makee asks her to bring up the star map, where she pinpoints the Halo's location.

Ackerson joins Parangosky in the ONI command center. She informs him that Master Chief is with the artifact. She clarifies that if any questions about Reach arise, he's on his own.

The UNSC is tracking the Arbiter's ship to the Soell system. Parangosky notes that the Covenant's entire First Fleet of Solemn Accord is gathered there, too. The UNSC officer reports a signal is coming from the system, but its source is unknown.

Parangosky orders Ackerson to ready the Spartan-IIIs. He balks, stating the Spartan-IIIs are elite soldiers trained for specific missions, not an all-out assault on a Covenant fleet. Parangosky asserts her command over all forces and reiterates her order.

As John moves through the base, looking for his armor, Captain Briggs and her Marines surround him. She orders them to take him down. John capitalizes on the reputation of Master Chief and turns her soldiers to his side.

They abandon her, and she pulls her weapon on John only to have Kai appear and punch her in the head.

John looks at Kai and turns away, saying he didn't ask for her help. She joins him without asking if he wants her with him.

As Miranda and Halsey discuss whether the blast from the artifact has made the archeological site unstable enough to warrant evacuation, Kwan examines the ruins.

Kwan asks what they're looking at. Halsey calls it a library. Miranda believes it's a religious site. Kwan realizes that neither knows for sure.

Miranda explains to Halsey that her initial error was thinking the cipher system was purely mathematical. Her way opened the first vault. Miranda figured out the cipher was also linguistic and could open the second. Halsey shares that the first vault held a DNA sample that was part human and part Forerunner.

In the command center, Parangosky orders a squadron of Condors, manned with Spartan-IIIs, to attack the Covenant fleet. They are instantly vaporized. Parangosky calls for the next wave. Ackerson cautions her that this approach is unsound. She states she'll sacrifice all the Spartan-IIIs to beat the Covenant to the Halo.

Soren and Laera walk around the Spartan-III training complex. He explains that he and his Spartan recruits also faced an exercise like this.

They were told to defend the pass, but the actual objective was to see what they would do when faced with an overwhelming enemy.

As he tells his story, Perez and her Spartan-III unit prepare to move out. Perez looks at the coin John gave her.

Soren's story ends with him, John, Riz, Kai, and Vannak making a last stand together and losing the fight.

Laera asks what they're going to do about Kessler. Soren wants to let him go through the trial just like he did. Laera is outraged. She accuses him of trying to return to his Spartan days when he's grown beyond that with his life, marriage and son. She refuses to let Kessler get hurt or turned into a killer.

Perez gives Mullins a pep talk as they prepare to deploy.

John watches a troop of Spartans move through the corridors. Kai tries to talk out what's happened, pointing out the erratic things he did before Reach fell. Kai justifies what she did, saying she had to make a call. John retorts that she made the wrong call, trusting people who wanted Silver Team dead. He keeps moving, stating he needs his suit. Kai says he can't know where it is. He agrees but points out that Cortana does.

Halsey explains to Miranda how the DNA sample she found led her to look for individuals with the genetic sequence for her Spartan program. Kwan points out she stole children.

Halsey asks Miranda what was in the second vault. She shows Halsey a round device. Kwan continues to examine the cipher-locked gate. She recalls the cave markings in the Rubble. As she reaches for a knob on the cipher, it lights up.

In the Onyx base, Ackerson activates a Spike and runs an analysis. It shows the obliteration of anything around a ship spiked as far out as the edges of its star system.

Ackerson gasps in realization and heads out, only to run straight into John and Kai.

John grabs Ackerson by the neck and lifts him off his feet. He asks Kai for a reason not to kill Ackerson. She's got nothing.

John demands to know where his armor is. Ackerson says it's behind a biometric lock, so they'll need him alive and with a face intact.

Once John releases him, Ackerson tells Kai about the Spike. He tells her Parangosky's betting that one Spartan team can get one Spike onto one Covenant ship, which will destroy everything and everyone within a million miles.

John questions Ackerson's concern for the Spartans. Ackerson states the Spartan-IIIs are his life's work, echoing Halsey's sentiments about John and Kai's generation.

Miranda asks Halsey about Admiral Keyes's demise. Miranda hopes he survived Reach, but Halsey completely removes that hope.

Kwan reaches for the crystal knob again and pulls it from the door. This activates an immersive star map. Kwan realizes the cipher is beyond math and language. The Forerunners used the stars themselves.

Ackerson, Kai, and John enter Sector 4. The Silver Team suits are all there on display except for Kai's. John shares Vannak's last moments with Kai. Ackerson asks what they'll do next. John tells him he will tell everyone what Parangosky and he did on Reach.

Ackerson argues he doesn't have proof to back up his account. John tells him that Master Chief's presence will be all the proof he needs.

Ackerson points out the truth will destroy him, too. John replies, "It all costs something, even when you can't see it."

Kwan moves the stars and constellations into place, but nothing happens. As Halsey and Miranda discuss the cipher, Kwan realizes it isn't a map but a clock. They must set the stars in the places Forerunners knew them to be.

Recalling the configuration of the star map on the Rubble, Kwan rearranges the stars and constellations again and reveals the Halo, which unlocks the ciphered door.

The door opens, and Halsey rushes through, followed by Kwan and Miranda. Inside, a light bridge assembles, and they cross towards another door.

Kai tells John they need to save the Spartan-IIIs that Parangosky's sacrificing to her cause. John admits that Parangosky's right about the Halo. He can't help her with the Spartans because he needs to get to the Halo first.

Kai says she's going with the Spartans. John understands. He tells her she'll have a hard choice if she ends up being the one with the chance to Spike the ship. She tells him to get to the Halo.

Miranda, Kwan, and Halsey approach a door. Miranda interprets the central symbol as rebirth, but there's a symbol above it with negative connotations that may modify the first symbol to mean change, division, or decay. Halsey places the device from the second vault into the central symbol, and it unlocks the door.

Inside, they discover a laboratory. They find a single mummified lifeform, curled in a fetal-like position on the floor, grasping an item in their hand. Halsey leans in to look. Kwan cautions she shouldn't touch it.

A cracking noise fills the chamber, and all the test tube-like apparatuses start to shatter. The door to the laboratory begins to close. Kwan screams for them all to leave. Miranda urges Halsey to move. Miranda takes a last look at the dead figure.

Kwan leads the group, running back across the light bridge. Halsey pauses on her way over, noticing an entire city built below the bridge. She and Miranda barely make it back through the ciphered door, which closes behind them.

Kwan is horrified to see the star systems turning red on the map. Halsey thinks it's beautiful, interpreting it as the Forerunners' history of expansion through the universe. Kwan mutters, "Growth. It's real," and runs off.

Halsey keeps Miranda from following. She asks if she retrieved the item from the dead scientist's hand. Miranda pulls the capsule out of her sleeve and hands it to Halsey.

On the Arbiter's ship, the Arbiter approaches Makee and informs her the priest and his supporters are dead. Makee recognizes his loyalty and admits she can no longer commune with the Artifact. To prove herself worthy of his faith, she brands herself with his crest, binding them both to the Ring.

Soren watches the Spartan recruits enter the trial arena. Laera's calling Kessler's name. As the opponents approach with batons raised, Soren jumps in and intervenes, taking out the attackers.

He beats them down brutally, causing the recruits to recoil from the violence. Once they are all subdued, he approaches Kessler, but his son backs away. Laera takes Kessler in her arms and shouts a warning to Soren as more attackers pounce on him. Laera and Kessler are dragged away while Soren is kept busy fighting.

Perez is looking at her reflection when John finds her and compliments her suit. She is amazed to see him alive. She assumes he's coming with the Spartan-IIIs. He tells her he has a different mission.

She tells him he would make a difference. She asks if he guessed the coin flips correctly or made the coin flip that way.

She leaves him with that, stating she'll be all right, one way or the other.

In the science labs on Onyx, Miranda asks Halsey if she has any idea what the capsule does. They have it in a containment device. Miranda examines it with gloves. She tells Halsey that she wants to meet the people who built the underground city as much as she does.

A security team is called to Section 70. Miranda continues examining the capsule. Suddenly, it opens, but Halsey has disappeared.

John walks out in his armor, drawing attention from everyone he passes. He gives a Master Chief propaganda ad the side-eye as he walks by.

In the command center, Parangosky confronts Ackerson with her knowledge that he analyzed the Spike.

The command techs detect an unauthorized Condor taking off. When they call it in for identification, John identifies himself over all comms. Parangosky turns on Ackerson, ordering him to be restrained. Ackerson assures her that people will believe Master Chief when he tells the truth about Reach.

John sets a course for Soell while Kai prepares the Spartan-IIIs, admonishing Perez to stop hoping he'll come.

John settles into his flight and realizes his quarter is on his dash. His ship comes out of slipspace just behind the Arbiter's ship. He looks past it to the Halo in the distance.

Actor Appearances

A

Nila Aalia	2
0104 (Agatha Terne); 0107 (Agathe Terne)	
Hisham Omer Abdelrahman Aburas	1
0102 (Caged Person #2)	
Karl Akortia	1
0108 (Marine Gunnery Sgt.)	
Esh Alladi	1
0106 (David)	
Blake Patrick Anderson	1
0201 (Felix)	
Bálint Antal	1
0207 (Black Ops Lieutenant)	
Aron Arany-Toth	1
0103 (Teenager)	
Franc Ashman	1
0201 (Ruby Ann)	
Shaun Aylward	1
0101 (Esso)	

B

Balázs Bölkény	1
0106 (Wounded Marine)	
Miklós Béres	1
0101 (Sentry)	
Tylan Bailey	4
0102 (Kessler); 0103 (Kessler); 0107 (Kessler); 0109 (Kessler)	
Isaura Barbé-Brown	1
0105 (Katei Rios)	
Eliseo Barrionuevo	2
0201 (Cousin Matteo); 0202 (Cousin Mateo)	
Tsogbaatar Batzorig	1
0104 (Man in the Crowd)	
Maria Jose Bavio	2
0201 (Aunt Lucia); 0202 (Aunt Lucia)	
Jamie Beamish	2
0101 (Kaidon); 0102 (Kaidon)	
Máté Bede-Fazekas	1
0107 (Pete)	
Julian Bleach	4
0101 (Mercy); 0102 (Mercy); 0103 (Mercy (voice)); 0109 (Mercy)	
Adam Boncz	1
0103 (Enforcer #2)	
Caroline Boulton	2
0108 (Flight Tech Javal); 0109 (Flight Tech Javal)	

C

Hayley Canham	1
0101 (Cara)	
Bronte Carmichael	2
0202 (Julia); 0203 (Julia)	
Angie Cepeda	2

 0104 (Violetta Franco); 0107 (Violetta Franco)

Gustavo Chiang	1
0109 (MP Takacs)	
Jessica Chisnall	1
0201 (Virtual Companion)	
Karen Connell	2
0201 (Yaz-112); 0203 (Yaz-112)	
Elijah Cook	1
0204 (Captain Tyrell)	
Maria Luisa Costa	3
0201 (Manuela Perez); 0202 (Manuela Perez); 0203 (Manuela Perez)	
David Crowley	3
0201 (Castor); 0202 (Castor); 0203 (Castor)	
Dávid Csányi	2
0101 (Colonel Stacker); 0102 (Colonel Stacker)	
Balázs Csémy	1
0109 (Evans)	
Jude Cudjoe	1
0102 (Teenage Soren)	

D

Ailsa Davidson	2
0206 (Tech Smith); 0207 (Tech Smith)	
Luke Davis	1
0201 (Private Rand)	
Matt Devere	1
0103 (Captain Yates)	
Thomas Dominique	2
0201 (Val-015); 0203 (Val-015)	
Keir Dullea	1
0102 (Fleet Admiral Hood)	

F

Anikó Fülöp	2
0202 (Marine Private); 0206 (Olsson)	
Amirreza Farajvand	1
0108 (Marine Private)	
Iván Fenyő	2
0102 (Bota); 0106 (Bota)	
Danielle Fiamanya	2
0106 (UNSC Nurse); 0109 (Nurse)	
Martin Fisher	1
0107 (Raphael Bivas)	
Jessica Fostekew	1
0108 (Borovoi)	
Olwen Fouéré	3
0201 (The Mother); 0205 (The Mother); 0206 (The Mother)	

G

Karen Gagnon	2
0101 (Juric); 0106 (Flight Tech Juric)	
Khash-Erdene Ganbold	1

0104 (Jong Sook)
 Tom Gaskin 2
 0206 (Tech Jones); 0207 (Tech Jones)
 Samuel Tamunotoku Gbobo 2
 0108 (Marine Doyle); 0109 (Marine Doyle)
 Romany Gilmour 1
 0204 (Marine Medic)
 Sam Gittins 1
 0201 (Corporal Sims)
 Gabrielle Glaister 1
 0101 (Erika Wize)
 Owen Good 1
 0102 (Robin)
 Burn Gorman 7
 0103 (Vinsher Grath); 0104 (Vinsher Grath); 0105
 (Vinsher Grath); 0106 (Vinsher Grath); 0107
 (Vinsher Grath); 0108 (Vinsher Grath); 0109
 (Vinsher Grath)

H

Daniel Hawksford 1
 0102 (Virgil Quin)
 Zazie Hayhurst 1
 0103 (Young Makee)
 Attila Heltai 1
 0206 (Gilroy)
 Roderick Hill 1
 0106 (Major Ira Halal)
 Zachary Hing 1
 0101 (Neru)

I

Aruzhan Ilaikova 1
 0205 (Young Acolyte)
 Ákos Inotay 1
 0202 (Oswyn)

J

Robert Jackson 1
 0103 (Enforcer)
 Péter Jankovics 1
 0107 (Filip)
 Ivanno Jeremiah 3
 0201 (Antares); 0202 (Antares); 0203 (Antares)
 Joshua Jo 1
 0107 (Man at the Well)
 Karl Johnson 3
 0102 (Truth); 0103 (Truth (voice)); 0109 (Truth)
 Rebecka Johnston 1
 0205 (Holystander #1)
 Marvin Jones III 3
 0202 (Louis-036); 0203 (Louis-036); 0204 (Louis-
 036)

K

Eddie Karanja 1
 0205 (Boy)
 Scott Karim 1
 0104 (Fazekas)
 Micah Karns 1
 0201 (Corporal Fisk)
 Ali Khan 2
 0104 (Attu); 0109 (Attu)
 Dani Klupsch 2
 0206 (Lt. Mullins); 0207 (Lt Mullins)

Casper Knopf 6
 0101 (Young John); 0102 (Young John); 0103 (Young
 John); 0104 (Young John); 0105 (Young John);
 0106 (Young John)
 Jeong-hwan Kong 2
 0101 (Jin Ha); 0107 (Jin Ha)
 Anna Koval 3
 0203 (Captain Briggs); 0206 (Captain Briggs); 0207
 (Captain Briggs)
 Lotti Kovari 1
 0204 (Specialist Pavlenko)

L

Francisco Labbe 3
 0101 (David Agnoli); 0102 (David Agnoli); 0106 (David
 Agnoli)
 Stuart Laing 1
 0205 (Doctor)
 Christian Ochoa Lavernia 3
 0202 (Danilo); 0203 (Danilo); 0204 (Danilo)
 Josie Lawrence 1
 0201 (Minnie)
 J Sebastian Lee 1
 0107 (Young Father)
 Jaram Lee 1
 0104 (Madrigal Elder)
 Jennifer Li 1
 0101 (Karla Walter)
 Chan Woo Lim 1
 0101 (Flight Tech Doan)
 Olivia Liu 1
 0101 (Faaz)
 Genesis Lynea 1
 0201 (Lance Corporal Bowman)

M

Marcell Mázsári 1
 0203 (Guard #2)
 Narcisse Mame 1
 0206 (Okada)
 Felipe Gabriel Mariano 1
 0101 (Malchin)
 Billy Marlow 1
 0103 (Det)
 Olwen May 1
 0204 (Jade)
 Tomi May 1
 0201 (Baz)
 Natascha McElhone 1
 0105 (Dr. Catherine Halsey)
 Ryan McParland 9
 0101 (Adun); 0102 (Adun); 0103 (Adun); 0104 (Adun);
 0105 (Adun); 0106 (Adun); 0107 (Adun); 0108
 (Adun); 0109 (Adun)
 Hilton McRae 3
 0102 (Regret); 0103 (Regret (voice)); 0109 (Regret)
 Zsófia Miklós 1
 0103 (Radio Operator)
 David Z. Miller 1
 0108 (Murdo)
 Juliette Motamed 3
 0201 (Carina); 0202 (Carina); 0203 (Carina)
 Johann Myers 2
 0102 (Reth); 0107 (Reth)

N

Vivien Nagy 1

0201 (Refugee Wife)	
Gábor Nagypál	3
0102 (Squirrel); 0103 (Squirrel); 0107 (Squirrel)	
Lilien Fanni Namenyi	1
0103 (Sensor Operator)	
Jack Nevils	1
0202 (Marine Lieutenant)	
Quynh Do Ngoc	1
0106 (Marine Lieutenant Goy)	
Mirjam Novak	2
0101 (Testic); 0106 (Flight Tech Testic)	
Celine Nwokeji	1
0102 (Grackle)	

O

Johnny O'Dowd	1
0205 (McCoy)	
Fiona O'Shaughnessy	3
0102 (Laera); 0103 (Laera); 0107 (Laera)	
Kevin Ezekiel Ogunleye	1
0103 (Second Marine)	
Nneka Okoye	1
0101 (Djanka)	
Oladapo Oluwatosin Okunlola	1
0109 (MP Choksey)	
Sebastian Orozco	2
0201 (Cousin Ant); 0202 (Cousin Ant)	

P

Johnny K. Palmer	2
0101 (Control Tech Ladi); 0106 (Control Tech Ladi)	
Bill Paterson	1
0203 (Ackerson's Father)	
Lara Peake	1
0205 (Fern)	
Claudius Peters	3
0106 (MP Malya); 0108 (MP Malya); 0109 (MP Malya)	
Hans Peterson	5
0101 (Ops Tech Pereira); 0102 (Ops Tech Pereira); 0103 (Sangheili #1 (voice)); 0105 (Sangheili Guard (voice)); 0106 (Ops Tech Pereira)	
Ian Pirie	2
0101 (Professor); 0107 (Professor)	
Luke Polie	1
0201 (Captain Nix)	
Duncan Pow	5
0101 (John's Father); 0102 (John's Father); 0103 (John's Father); 0104 (John's Father); 0106 (John's Father)	
Levente Pupics	1
0206 (Oni Guard)	

R

Barnabás Réti	1
0109 (Corpsman 2)	
Iringó Réti	1
0102 (Vendor)	
Narmina Rahimova	1
0107 (Young Mother)	
Sarah Ridgeway	4
0101 (John's Mother); 0102 (John's Mother); 0103 (John's Mother); 0104 (John's Mother)	
Zsuzsanna Roe	1
0108 (Young Girl)	

S

Andrew Senesie	1
0207 (Commander Bookman)	
Logan Shearer	1
0102 (Teenage John)	
Yuna Shin	2
0104 (Soojin Ha); 0107 (Soojin Ha)	
Iliasz Shweirif	3
0201 (Virgil); 0202 (Virgil); 0203 (Virgil)	
Fernanda Rachi Silva	1
0102 (Caged Person #1)	
Cat Simmons	1
0205 (Garwyn)	
Josette Simon	1
0107 (Desiderata)	
Lorena Santana Somogyi	1
0102 (Crewman #1)	
Kembe Sorel	1
0103 (Weapons Operator)	
Zar Succarotte	1
0202 (Spiff Henchman #1)	
Kamilla Szász	1
0201 (Vera)	
Ádám Szabó	1
0203 (Guard #1)	
István Szacsvai	1
0205 (Homesteader Man)	
Tamas Szaraz	1
0204 (Gunnery Sergeant)	
Jeannine Szovik	1
0107 (Village Elder)	

T

Sonny Poon Tip	1
0202 (Ensign Bishara)	
Mich Todorovic	1
0202 (Clive)	
Natalia Toth	1
0103 (Young Marine)	
Anna Trokán	3
0102 (Trokan); 0103 (Trokan); 0107 (Trokan)	
Nóra Trokán	1
0107 (Daranka)	
Narantsogt Tsogtsaikhan	1
0202 (Spiff Henchman #2)	

U

Timea Udvari-Kardos	1
0205 (Homesteader Woman)	

V

Ashwin Varma	1
0201 (Refugee Husband)	
Payal Vashist	1
0206 (Scientist)	
Petra Veres-Kovács	1
0109 (Corpsman 1)	
Sebastián Capitán Viveros	1
0104 (Sergeant Mendez)	

W

Benjamin Wainwright	1
0201 (Gunnery Sgt Boone)	
Jeremy Wheeler	1
0102 (Crewman #2)	
Nathan Wiley	1

0201 (Karim-002)
Miranda Wilson 3
0101 (Penma); 0102 (Penma); 0106 (Penma)

————— **Y** —————

Sky Yang 2
0101 (Ruben); 0107 (Ruben)

————— **Z** —————

Patrik Zana 1
0105 (Greskoviak)