

SKIES MAY FALL

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FADE IN:

INT. BOX TRUCK - REAR - DAY

The rusted, canvas-covered truck bed is half-filled with various crates and boxes.

PAMBY (50s), sits on a crate at the back, peering through a small gap in the canvas. A backpack leans against his leg. A pistol hangs in his hand.

EXT. Y-BRIDGE SOUTH COMMONS - DAY

The busy, Y-shaped bridge looms high above.

Below the bridge is quiet. Colorful domiciles are stacked in an organized chaos.

The freight truck pulls off from a stop, leaving Pamby standing on the side of the street. He hustles to an alleyway, disappearing between homes.

INT. BETH AND PAMBY'S APARTMENT

The cozy second-floor apartment is decorated warmly.

Pamby enters cautiously with pistol at the ready.

PAMBY
Beth? You here?

Beth (40s), appears from the kitchen. Her English accent compliments her cheery disposition, with her laugh lines telling the tale of a happy, but demanding existence.

BETH
Yes, my dear. What's going on?

Pamby rushes past her to the window, where he looks outside.

PAMBY
Grab the go-bags - the small ones.
I think we're made.

Beth instantly disappears into the other room, speaking as the sounds of DOORS OPENING AND CLOSING threaten to drown her out.

BETH (O.S.)
What makes you so certain?

Pamby pulls a rifle from his backpack and readies the weapon for use. He scans the street below, hiding behind the drapes.

PAMBY

A client asked for me by name.

Beth returns carrying two backpacks, which she tosses onto the couch. They have body armor and various weapon magazines fixed to the outside. She hurries into the kitchen.

BETH

That isn't normal?

PAMBY

Not when you work for a wanted arms dealer.

BETH

We must get you better job prospects.

PAMBY

Yeah. I also might've grabbed a few credits on my way out.

BETH

You robbed them?

PAMBY

Call it my final paycheck.

Pamby studies the street, spotting something up the block:

An EMERGENCY MEDICAL HOVERCRAFT - a boxy white vehicle - slowly makes its way down the street in a cloud of dust.

Beth returns with a beat-up stock pot, which she slides to Pamby. He opens the pot and pulls out a monocular, which sat on top of loose bullets.

He watches intently as the ambulance floats down the street.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Got your runnin' shoes on?

She joins him at the window with a duffel bag in hand. She opens it and produces a large, six-shot grenade launcher. She checks the loaded cylinder.

BETH

It's been years since I've worn anything else.

The hovercraft slowly crosses in front of the apartment.

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT

Parking gear swings down underneath the hovercraft as the thrusters begin to wane. As the ambulance comes to rest, the rear doors open.

Four men dressed as paramedics exit, each with a black duffel bag. They head toward the apartment.

BACK INSIDE

Pamby brings his rifle to his shoulder. Beth follows suit.

BETH (CONT'D)

If you're wrong, we're murderers.

Pamby's finger moves to the trigger as he takes aim. He begins to squeeze...

THE ROAR OF AN ENGINE APPROACHING brings everyone to a stop.

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT

AN ENORMOUS VEHICLE - what looks like a six-wheeled trash truck, SMASHES into the ambulance, sending it tumbling down the street as the truck skids to a stop.

THE PARAMEDICS spin toward the truck, pulling guns from their duffel bags.

The rear door on the trash truck opens, and out pour six militaristic operatives armed to the teeth. All four 'paramedics' are immediately GUNNED DOWN.

BACK INSIDE THE APARTMENT

Pamby and Beth share a wide-eyed glance. A VOICE interrupts from down below.

CAPTAIN STEYER (O.S.)

Pamby, Captain Steyer from the Dark
Space Authority, here. Could we
talk?

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT

CAPTAIN STEYER (60s), stands in the middle of the street, looking up at the window with a red folder and tablet in hand. He adjusts his round-rimmed glasses.

Pamby comes to the window, answering gruffly.

PAMBY

Alright.

Captain Steyer nods and heads toward the building.

INT. PAMBY AND BETH'S LIVING ROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

Pamby opens the door and motions for Steyer to enter.

Beth scrambles to move the packs and weapons from the couch.

BETH

I do apologize. The place is usually top-notch tidy.

CAPTAIN STEYER

Not a worry in the world. You both keep a lovely home.

Steyer sits in an armchair across from the couch.

Pamby puts his rifle next to the couch and sits. He stares a hole through Steyer as he settles into the chair.

PAMBY

I believe that paramedic hit squad was sent by a man named Grenville. He's a syndicate shop owner I've been-

CAPTAIN STEYER

Grenville won't be an issue moving forward.

Pamby's eyes narrow.

PAMBY

Why would the DSA do that for us?

CAPTAIN STEYER

We took steps to ensure that you are able to focus wholly on this conversation, and what comes after it, because it is imperative that you do so.

Beth slides into the room and slowly sits on the couch.

BETH

I would hate to be a rude host, but I'd rather not offer you a drink if you're here to drag us to a penitentiary.

Steyer stifles a laugh.

CAPTAIN STEYER
I come in peace, and with an
opportunity. Have you heard of a
planet called Skylark?

The pair look at each other before shaking their heads.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)
It's largely a desert planet deemed
suitable for settling in the recent
past. Early development efforts
have yielded great results in just
a few years. However, many of the
original settlers have turned their
backs on the operation, and it is
now considered a 'planet in
conflict.'

BETH
We aren't soldiers, Mr. Steyer.

CAPTAIN STEYER
I'm not asking you to be soldiers.
I need your skills and your time in
a peculiar situation that requires
your kind of ingenuity.

Steyer unfolds his tablet and starts a video which he hands
to Pamby.

CLOSE ON: THE TABLET SCREEN

**News footage of a vehicle, what could only be described as a
miniature tank, smashing through a police barricade. Debris
and crushed squad cars are left in its wake.**

**The lower third banner reads, "SYNDICATE OPERATIONS BECOMING
MORE VIOLENT."**

Pamby suppresses a smile and hands the tablet back to Steyer.

PAMBY
This is how you found us?

CAPTAIN STEYER
Your work is as well-known as it is
impressive.

PAMBY
There's plenty of schools with
engineers lookin' for jobs.

CAPTAIN STEYER

This role also requires that we acquire equipment and resources - something your rap sheet suggests you both have experience in. You would be under contract for sixty days. You'll be classified as Acquisition Specialists and Technicians. Nothing more.

PAMBY

Are two pairs of handcuffs waitin' on the other end of the deal?

Steyer leans forward with the folder held up.

CAPTAIN STEYER

Complete this contract, and your records with the Dark Space Authority will be cleared. Firemine's Gulch, the last six years of running, and anything in between; completely erased. Plus, of course, some cold hard cash with which to put a down payment on your new lease on life.

Pamby takes a deep breath and looks at Beth, who anxiously rubs her hands together.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

No more running. And as adorable as your home is, you shouldn't have to store your ammunition in the same place you cook your breakfast.

Pamby motions to see the folder, which Steyer hands to him.

PAMBY

Have we really got a choice?

CAPTAIN STEYER

I am meeting with you face-to-face to ensure that you make the correct one.

Pamby scans the paperwork inside the folder.

BETH

When would we need to leave?

Steyer stands and heads to the door.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Transport is en route. See you
downstairs.

Steyer exits, leaving the door open behind him.

EXT. SPACE - DARK SPACE AUTHORITY MOTHERSHIP - ESTABLISHING

The massive vessel stretches through space at the size of a small city. Smaller space crafts zip around its exterior with landing bays opening and closing at a near constant rate.

INT. LANDING BAY - DARK SPACE AUTHORITY MOTHERSHIP

A small passenger vessel lands in an enormous landing bay, with the rear ramp descending. Ships of all sizes move through the hangar in organized chaos.

Steyer comes down the ramp with Pamby and Beth close behind. He almost has to shout over the din of activity.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Your ride is in the close corner -
a Silver dropship in bay 131! It's
direct to Skylark!

Pamby nods as Steyer extends a handshake.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)
Good luck! See you back here soon!

He shakes both of their hands and departs.

INT. SILVER DROPSHIP - A SHORT TIME LATER

The dropship is a small freighter with two occupied pilot chairs at the front. PILOT 1 and PILOT 2 flip switches and reference a tablet.

In the middle of the freight area is a white hovercraft that is fastened to the floor. The speeder looks like an old-school, but futuristic El Camino.

Three passengers surround the speeder:

DEJI (40s), is dark skinned, weathered and tall. He sits on the tailgate as he places and adjusts his gear belt.

CHIEF MICAH (50s), a barrel-chested military man with a smoker's voice, chews on a non-lit cigar as he paces.

The third, AL, is a sophisticated android that stands a foot taller than Deji, sitting at the rear of the cabin.

Most of his dust-colored, metallic, skeletal frame is covered by black, tactical clothing. His face is exposed, showing two eyes with no nose or mouth. A massive revolver hangs from his side.

The side door of the cabin opens. All three look up.

Pamby and Beth enter. Beth's eyes light up as she drops her luggage and runs toward Deji and Al with open arms.

BETH

My boys!

Deji wears a shocked, ear-to-ear smile.

DEJI

What the hell are you doing here?

BETH

Aren't you two a sight for sore eyes! It's been so long!

Pamby looks less-than-enthused as he drags Beth's bags onboard and props them against the wall.

DEJI

Are you working?

Beth steps back, wiping happy tears from her cheeks.

BETH

Yes! A last-minute booking. You're on contract as well?

Deji gives Al an uneasy look.

DEJI

Oh, you know us; always on the clock. I didn't realize there were multiple contracts for the client.

The trio continue speaking excitedly.

Pilot 2 pulls the side door shut.

PILOT 2

Settle in! Wheels up as soon as command gives the green light!

Chief Micah makes his way to the front of the cabin, unfolds a seat and straps in.

Pamby reluctantly approaches the group, extending a handshake to Deji.

PAMBY
Ain't a bad time to see a pair of
familiar faces.

DEJI
Unexpected, to say the least. Had
no idea.

PAMBY
We've only known for a few hours,
ourselves.

DEJI
Hours?

PILOT 1
Please sit down and secure
yourselves! We are in the queue!

Beth breaks off to stow their luggage.

Pamby shakes Al's hand while looking him up and down.

PAMBY
Hey, Al. How's everythin' holdin'
up?

Al cannot speak, and instead uses perfect sign language.

AL
(*signing*)
*I am fine. Not worse than you,
based on how you look.*

PAMBY
Still a smartass, I see.

The cabin LURCHES as the ship takes off.

EXT. SPACE - SKYLARK'S ATMOSPHERE - ESTABLISHING

The dropship flies high above Skylark.

The planet below looks like a patchwork of brown deserts
bordering multi-colored forest areas, all stitched together
by long seams of mountain ranges.

A few specs of water dot the colorful landscapes.

INT. SILVER DROPSHIP

Pamby stands behind the pilot chairs and stares out the side of the cockpit.

CHIEF MICAH (O.S.)
Easy t'see why the settlers
volunteered to come here.

Pamby turns. Chief Micah is waiting with an outstretched hand. Pamby shakes it firmly.

CHIEF MICAH (CONT'D)
Name's Micah.

PAMBY
Pamby. Hopefully the settlers
didn't volunteer the same way we
did. How do you figure into all
this?

CHIEF MICAH
Just the comms guy for DSA command.
Leadership down below hasn't been
very talkative for some time.

PILOT 1
Strap in for approach. Skylark has
a bitch of an atmosphere, so expect
heavy turbulence.

Everyone heads back to their seats.

PILOT 2
Once we're stable, we'll get low
enough to drop you, then we're on
our way. This is strictly a no-
contact drop-off. Speed is key.

Pamby and Beth make uneasy eye contact as they strap in.

EXT. SPACE - SKYLARK'S ATMOSPHERE

The dropship banks steeply toward the planet. The nose of the ship glows in the heat of the atmosphere.

EXT. SKY - SKYLARK - EVENING

The dropship levels off as it makes its way through the magnificent, bright sky. A massive mountain range runs in both directions far below.

EXT. FOREST GROVE - EVENING

A long, green meadow acts as a bushcraft runway.

The silver dropship flies above, growing larger as it rapidly approaches the landing strip.

INT. SILVER DROPSHIP

Deji, Al and Pamby are sitting amongst the gear in the bed of the speeder. Beth drives, with Chief Micah in the passenger's seat.

The ramp at the back of the cabin begins to lower. The top of the multi-colored tree canopy flashes below in a blur.

The forest gives way to the empty meadow. A GREEN LIGHT flashes in the cabin.

EXT. FOREST GROVE - EVENING

The dropship skims just above the ground. The speeder appears, gliding backward down the ramp with a seamless transition from the ramp to the ground.

The dropship rises as quickly as it fell, with the ramp closing as it ascends back into the sky.

The speeder moves quickly toward the rapidly approaching trees at the end of the runway.

INSIDE THE SPEEDER

Beth's hands move gracefully across the controls as she slows the speeder and puts it into a controlled sideways slide.

EXT. FOREST GROVE - SAME TIME

The speeder floats to a stop with only feet between the side of the speeder and the nearest line of foliage. The landing gear drops as the thrusters power down.

Deji and Pamby both dig into their packs and produce rifles, scanning the surrounding forest in uncomfortable silence.

DEJI

Now what...

TWO RED FLARES SCREECH into the sky several miles away, right below where the Dropship rises into the sky.

A humvee BURSTS into the grove - Deji, Pamby and Al raise their weapons.

KAT (30s), pops out of the roof hatch as they approach, her hands held up with palms to the sky. Her erect posture and black ballcap give a take-your-bullshit-elsewhere feel.

ELLIS (20s), the driver, is a down-home young man with an intellect beyond his vocabulary.

Guns stay trained on the humvee as Chief Micah exits the cab.

CHIEF MICAH

Stand down, fellas. That's Kat -
she's runnin' the show down here.

The humvee comes SKIDDING to a stop next to the speeder.

KAT

That shitty fireworks show means
trouble is on the way. Follow us
back to the silo. Stay close, and
if you see anything or anyone else
on the way, weapons loose.

PAMBY/DEJI

Copy that.

The pair awkwardly avoid eye contact.

KAT

Welcome to paradise.

The humvee peels off.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

The convoy of the humvee and speeder fly along the narrow, dirt road, almost bumper to bumper. The final shade of daylight clings to the woods.

Pamby, Deji and Al watch the surrounding forest move by in a blur. Al points behind them.

IN THE DISTANCE BEHIND THE CONVOY

A pair of headlights emerge around a bend.

BACK IN THE SPEEDER BED

All three raise their weapons. A GUNSHOT from Kat's humvee turns their heads.

Kat waves her hand downward and holsters her pistol.

All three hastily hunker down into the bed.

BEHIND THE SPEEDER

The humvee is getting closer - the bright headlights blotting out everything behind them.

AT KAT'S HUMVEE

She pulls a rocket launcher from inside the humvee and takes aim as the humvee and speeder go around a sweeping turn...

Just as the chasing headlights emerge from around the bend - she FIRES.

BEHIND THE CONVOY

The rocket FLIES OVER the speeder and EXPLODES into the humvee.

IN THE SPEEDER BED

Pamby checks his rifle and wipes sweat from his face.

INT. STAGING AREA, BAY 3 - SILO 6 - NIGHT

The staging area is a wide cutout attached to a vehicle-sized tunnel running in both directions.

The steel doors to the loading bay slide open as Kat's humvee enters with the speeder close behind. The doors are closed quickly behind them.

Kat hops out of the passenger side of the humvee and addresses the crew in the speeder. Ellis follows.

KAT

(to Ellis)

See if you can scrounge some rations after you get them bunked up.

(to the others)

Ellis will take you from here. I'll see you in the morning for briefing, if we make it that long.

CHIEF MICAH

I need to get to your comms room to touch base with command.

KAT

I'll let them know you made it. We have sensitive information to discuss before you make contact.

PAMBY

We not gonna talk about the road rage we just saw?

KAT

Not much to say. Let's just hope no more followed us back.

BETH

What if they did?

Kat climbs back into the driver's seat of the humvee.

KAT

Realistically, we all die.

She drives off down the tunnel, leaving the group in an uncomfortable silence.

INT. WAR ROOM (SILO 6) - NEXT MORNING

The war room is a small amphitheater with multitiered seating. In the middle is a large table with a map, which sits below a projector.

The seats fill quickly as silo-dwellers make their way to the seats. Most are men, middle aged and older.

Deji, Beth, Pamby and Al enter at the back of the room. Everyone gives Al a wide birth.

Kat goes to the front of the packed room, bringing it to silence.

KAT

I'm sure you've all noticed some new faces.

Murmurs move through the crowd.

PAMBY

(to himself)

Some welcome-wagon.

Beth jabs a subtle elbow into Pamby's side.

KAT
(to Pamby)
What do we call you? Just paid guns
or...

PAMBY
Reluctant participants.

A few giggles and grunts from the crowd.

KAT
Aren't we all. They also brought
Chief Micah, the Dark Space
Authority ambassador. Hopefully
we'll hear from him soon. We've
recently gained a few nomads as
well, all the way from silo 14.

A small group of men and women, only six or seven, give shy
waves to the crowd.

KAT (CONT'D)
Welcome to the cause. A quick
overview for our newcomers:

Kat picks up a clipboard to reference as she speaks.

KAT (CONT'D)
Silo 6, that's us, is now at
population 3-4-8, plus a dozen or
so if you include field assets.
Unfortunately, the rumors of a cure
for the harvester disease are not
true.

The group of nomads look deflated.

Deji, Pamby and Beth and exchange confused looks.

KAT (CONT'D)
Here's everything we know about the
harvesters: They do not speak, but
do somehow seem to communicate.

Deji leans over, murmuring to Beth and Pamby.

DEJI
What the fuck is she talking about?

The pair shrug with wide eyes.

KAT

The harvester objective has always been to capture, but they will kill if threatened. We have reason to believe that harvesters retain their human knowledge after the transition, which is why they have no issues utilizing our equipment or facilities. We don't know how the disease moves, and we don't have symptom time lines or dormancy data. We continue to be frustratingly blind in our approach to fighting the spread.

Kat takes a breath and gathers herself before continuing.

KAT (CONT'D)

The hard truth is that we have lasted this long because we mitigate risk. No trips outside unless absolutely necessary.

A map of the silo is projected onto the wall behind her. The middle is a giant circle labeled 'main garage'. Going out from each are many smaller lines, similar to a subway map, all with different labels.

KAT (CONT'D)

The silo is easy to navigate. Note that bays three and six are the only unsealed doors out of the silo. The others have seen too much harvey activity for safe use. The main garage is where Big Max is, and also where we can always use willing hands. Getting the rig ready for action is priority number one, so, don't be shy about volunteering.

Kat puts her clipboard down and takes a somber tone.

KAT (CONT'D)

Just understand that every day down here is a challenge. It's easy to start to feel numb; but, try not to. Feeling is what makes us human.

Kat sees Chief Micah enter in the back of the room. She snaps back to her commanding tone.

KAT (CONT'D)

Ah, Chief Micah. Some better news,
I hope?

CHIEF MICAH

Afraid not.

He makes his way to the front, his footsteps deafening in the silence.

CHIEF MICAH (CONT'D)

The planet, well, it's been
quarantined until further notice.

Eyes roll in the crowd while a few bury their heads in their hands. Not many seem surprised.

Pamby's face turns from confusion to acute anger.

CHIEF MICAH (CONT'D)

Nothing out, not until they figure
out how to stop the spread. But,
remember, I'm right here with ya.
And, a supply drop is in the works.
Other'n that, I'm an open book,
you'll know what I know.

Beth leans over and whispers to Pamby.

BETH

Zombie pandemic aside... What the
hell is a Big Max?

INT. MAIN GARAGE - DAY

The cavernous area is bustling with activity. The natural rock ceiling is lined with bright lights. Roll-up garage doors line the ground level walls.

Beth, Pamby, Deji and Al stand together, staring upward in awe.

The centerpiece of the cavern is a giant vehicle. At the size of a small cruise ship, the steel-plated rig is a menacing spectacle. Its six wheels alone stand two stories tall.

The word 'MAX' is painted on the side in blue, block letters.

KAT (O.C.)

Something, isn't he?

Kat approaches from behind.

DEJI
What is this?

KAT
It was a prison transport. Back when Skylark was deemed suitable to settle, Planetary Development paired with the DSA to bring non-violent prisoners as labor. This is where they lived while the silos were built.

BETH
They used prisoners as free labor?

KAT
Work was exchanged for shorter sentences. We've been outrunning the harvesters by jumping from silo to silo, but we've run out of real estate. The rig was left here because this is the last silo Planetary Development built before withdrawing. Big Max is our next best option.

The room shakes. Beth, Pamby and Deji steady themselves.

KAT (CONT'D)
Just a tremor. You'll get used to them.

DEJI
It still works?

KAT
It does, but not at its peak. That's where you come in.

She pulls a large envelope from her jacket and hands it to Deji.

KAT (CONT'D)
Look it over and I'll come by for questions.

Kat departs.

Deji opens the envelope and turns to show the others.

Pamby is already walking away. Beth shakes her head and follows.

INT. CREW GARAGE - SILO 6

The three car garage is well lit and clean, more of an automotive laboratory than a storage facility. Deji's speeder is on a lift, where Pamby inspects its undercarriage. Beth holds a flashlight behind him.

Deji and Al enter. Al grabs an equipment bag and begins emptying its contents at the long table in the middle of the space.

Deji puts the loose briefing pages back in the envelope and slides it down the table toward Pamby.

DEJI

Coordinates are listed inside. Can
I count on you two for a pick-up?

Beth glances at Pamby, who continues working. She retrieves the briefing and holds it to Pamby's face, forcing him to stop.

BETH

We can do that. People or packages?

Pamby thumbs through the pages.

DEJI

Packages. As many as we can send.
Brief says as long as we send them
West, we shouldn't have any
Harvester contact.

A moment of silence as Pamby reads the briefing.

DEJI (CONT'D)

I know this isn't what anyone was
hoping for. But, it'll be easier if
we work together. Can we?

Pamby hands the brief back to Beth and continues his inspection.

PAMBY

Haven't got much of a choice.

Deji shakes his head and grabs a gear bag, joining Al at the table.

A KNOCK at the door. Kat enters.

KAT

Questions?

BETH

A bit lucky that they're still producing and transporting the power cells.

KAT

In the short term, yes. They're using them for something at one of the original domes -- we're not sure what. But, if we can get them, our chances of surviving on the rig go way up.

DEJI

I'll need dimensions of the cells.

KAT

Consider it done.

(to Pamby)

You'll have the equipment ready?

PAMBY

Speeder won't be nothin' to look at, but she'll go.

KAT

Good.

BETH

Why do you call them harvesters?

KAT

Because they take. They take, and they use, and they discard. Which, is why we hired you to take some things back. Let's hope the DSA spent their money wisely.

PAMBY

You know, we weren't exactly told the entire truth about this conflict when we signed the dotted line. If there's a way off the planet-

KAT

I'm sorry if you were lied to, by omission or otherwise, but the contracts haven't been my concern for quite some time. We're all in the same boat, now. The best thing all of you can do is put your energy toward helping me keep it from sinking.

Kat exits briskly.

Al waves his hand to get Deji's attention.

AL
(signing, subtitled)
*I don't like how she talks to us.
This war is not even ours to win.*

Deji wears a grim expression.

DEJI
Yeah, well, it is now.

He shoves gear into a bag before zipping it shut.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - SKYLARK - DAY

The flat desert stretches as far as the eye can see. In the distance, a chrome monorail runs the length of the skyline. A tiny object moves next to it -- Deji's speeder -- nearly matching its speed.

EXT. DEJI'S SPEEDER - SAME TIME

Deji's speeder, now a bare bones frame, streaks across the barren desert.

The thrusters on the back glow a brighter and brighter blue as Deji pushes the speeder's limits. Al crouches in the bed, holding tight to the frame.

The monorail, which runs parallel and moves in the same direction, is creeping ahead as it hovers above its magnetic rail.

INT. DEJI'S SPEEDER

Deji is driving, wearing a flight mask with a small air tank strapped to his chest. The speeder WHINES as it picks up pace.

ON THE BACK OF DEJI'S SPEEDER

The WIND ROARS.

Al unstraps a grapple gun from the bed and takes aim at the adjacent train car.

PZZZZT, TUNK -- The grapple latches onto the door.

Al clamps the grapple gun onto the speeder frame, turning it into a winch. The speeder is slowly pulled against the train. He uses a large drill to sink equally large bolts through the speeder frame and into the train car, firmly connecting the two.

Deji joins Al in the bed as Al expertly removes the grapple and slides the train car door open. Deji starts his watch.

DEJI
Two minutes!

INT. TRAIN CAR

Al steps inside while Deji sets up a mortar launcher and lays out equipment bags in the bed outside.

The power cells are three feet tall and two feet in diameter, with an elegant, cylindrical design and soft green glow.

Al begins moving the cells to the edge with ease, where Deji painstakingly sets them in the bed of the speeder.

ON THE BACK OF THE SPEEDER

Deji tightens a strap around the cell, which he attaches to a nylon line.

The other end of the line is attached to a four foot long, miniature torpedo with a fan on one end. He loads the torpedo into the launcher.

DEJI
Launching!

He mashes the floor switch with his foot, sending the torpedo high into the sky where it pops open - now a giant kite.

The power cell lifts gracefully from the bed. Deji prepares another.

INSIDE THE TRAIN

Al Picks up two more cells near the back of the car and sets them on the edge. He turns around...

REVEAL:

OLIVIA (30s), tall with an athletic build and brown skin, is huddled amongst the freight with BENSON (60s). He is aged beyond his years with sunken eyes, and drenched in sweat.

Olivia has her hunting rifle trained on Al.

Al and Olivia hold tense, frozen eye contact.

EXT. OLD FOREST ROAD - EVENING

A flatbed truck HUMS along the red, clay road. The forest around it has been gutted. Only short, wide stumps are visible for miles.

INT. FLATBED TRUCK

Beth and Pamby take in the devastation in a brief silence...

BETH

You know, Deji only tries because he cares about the both of us.

PAMBY

He tries 'cus he wants someone to take the guilt off 'im.

BETH

How long do you plan to punish him by making him keep it?

PAMBY

It ain't fair for us to suffer alone.

BETH

Don't you think he's missing her, too? Can you imagine the pain we have being two-fold?

Pamby chews his lower lip.

BETH (CONT'D)

Just try to let him in, please? For me?

Beth takes Pamby's hand as he lets out a long sigh.

A slight smile sneaks onto Beth's face.

FURTHER UP THE ROAD

A power cell glides from the sky, gently landing on the side of the path. Its kite falls not far behind.

The pair pull up and load the cell onto the truck. Another touches down further up the road.

INT. BAY 3 - SILO 6

The bay doors slide shut behind Pamby and Beth's truck. The bed filled with power cells.

Deji and Al are off to the side of the bay breaking down their equipment in the back of the speeder.

Olivia and Benson are seated against the wall with their hands tied.

Kat and Ellis approach briskly from down the tunnel. She hones in on Olivia and Benson immediately.

KAT
Who the hell is that?

DEJI
They were hiding on the train.

Kat addresses Olivia and Benson directly.

KAT
When was the last time you had contact with harvesters?

OLIVIA
Never, only seen them at a distance.

KAT
Why were you on a harvester train?

OLIVIA
We needed to find a silo, but the one we saw was overrun. We needed to find another, and traveling on foot wasn't viable.

BENSON
It's my leg. I slipped and it's, well it's getting worse.

Kat rubs her eyes in frustration.

KAT
Shit. Get them to the infirmary and tell Silvi to put them somewhere secure. And nobody touch him.

Olivia helps her father stand as they are led away.

Kat steps closer to Deji.

KAT (CONT'D)

Never bring strangers into this silo again. If he's carrying the harvester infection, you may have just killed us.

DEJI

He looks human to me.

Kat faces him, fire on her breath.

KAT

We don't know if there's an incubation period. When you're on your second day of a two year war, you don't make the decisions.

DEJI

Understood.

Kat glances at the truck full of power cells.

KAT

Get those to the garage, and pray our new visitors don't turn red.

Kat marches off, leaving perplexed faces behind her.

INT. INFIRMARY

The infirmary is brightly lit with rolling beds lining the walls. At the far end are three 'private' rooms with glass walls and doors. Two guards stand anxiously at the door.

Olivia and Benson are seated inside the middle of the three glass rooms. The door is closed.

DOCTOR SILVI (60s), Approaches the room and speaks loudly through the glass.

DOCTOR SILVI

How did the injury take place?

BENSON

We were crossing a river and I slipped. The current took me and my leg caught a stuck timber.

Benson pulls up his left pant leg to reveal a makeshift bandage cut from clothing. He slowly peels it off, grinding his teeth as the dressing pulls at his skin.

An eight-inch gash reaches from below the knee down toward his ankle. The skin around it is red and raised. A red line continues up his leg from the abrasion.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Not so bad, right?

Doctor Silvi studies the injury through the glass.

DOCTOR SILVI

When did the fever begin?

OLIVIA

Only a day or so. The chills and sweats come and go.

The DOOR swings open and Kat enters, signaling for the guards to exit. She makes her way to Silvi, clocking the gash on Benson's leg.

KAT

Anything extraordinary?

DOCTOR SILVI

Only ordinary - a common infection by my estimation. A heavy dose of antibiotics should suffice. Treatment must be immediate, with signs of sepsis already appearing. We can start now, but I will need more to finish.

KAT

Let's keep him here for a few days. Let me know what meds you need and I'll get the list to our new contact. Do you think we should keep her quarantined, too?

DOCTOR SILVI

We have no evidence of peer-to-peer transmission, even with open injuries.

KAT

You mean you've never seen it, personally?

DOCTOR SILVI
That is all I have to reference,
yes.

Silvi goes back to the counter and begins to write.

Kat turns her attention to Olivia.

KAT
How did you come to Skylark?

OLIVIA
We're natives. Peaceful, natives.

KAT
Planetary Development can't exist
with ethical operations. They take
homes in the name of 'improvement
and progress.' I'm sorry it's
something you've lived through. I
can't give you your life back, but
I can find you a warm bed.

OLIVIA
I'll stay here with my dad, thanks.

Benson shakes his head.

BENSON
No, ma'am. I'm a big boy. You go
on.

Silvi returns and hands Kat a folded up piece of paper. Kat
nods and leads Olivia toward the door.

INSIDE A DARK CUPBOARD is illuminated as Doctor Silvi opens
the door and reaches inside. He sifts through med bottles,
eventually pulling one from the back. He closes the door.

CUT TO BLACK

BEGIN FLASHBACK: DARKNESS

The STRIKE OF A MATCH births a small, floating flame.

VAL (V.O.)
I'm still here, you know.

The fire spreads to a stack of kindling, revealing a teepee
of prepped firewood ready to burn.

VAL (V.O.)
But, I'll wait.

As the flame builds, it reveals a figure crouching next to the fire. Her face is hidden by blonde hair that hangs to her shoulders. Her black clothing is tattered.

VAL (V.O.)
Even though it's cold, and I'm
lonely. I'll wait forever.

The fire builds to reveal the figure crouching inside a small cave. Her head almost touches the top. She turns, revealing her badly burnt face.

The fire EXPLODES OUTWARD, sending her hair flying backward as the entire scene is SWALLOWED BY FLAME.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PAMBY AND BETH'S ROOM - SILO 6

Pamby's GRUNT pierces the silent darkness as he shoots up and clicks on the bedside lamp. He wipes sweat from his face.

The room TREMBLES under the stress of an EXPLOSION NEARBY. Beth rolls over, wiping sleep from her tired eyes.

BETH
A tremor?

PAMBY
I don't think so.

INT. MAIN GARAGE

Pamby and Beth rush into the garage and join a hectic scene.

Mechanics rush into the rear door of Big Max with fire extinguishers.

Kat and a grease-covered Ellis fly past, pushing two occupied gurneys with Doctor Silvi leading them.

INT. WAR ROOM

The room is filled to the brim. Pamby, Beth, Al, and Deji file inside.

Beth notices Olivia finding a seat alone in the corner, with the people around her giving a wide berth.

BETH

Everyone here is so concerned with staying human, they've forgotten how to be people.

They all make their way over and sit with her.

IN THE CORNER

Olivia looks up as the group approaches.

OLIVIA

Careful, everyone is convinced I'm sick.

BETH

Aren't we all?

Beth points to her head and winks as she settles in. Olivia gestures to Al.

OLIVIA

That's a DSA android, right? how is it here?

BETH

Oh, Al? The DSA blessed their projects with a high aptitude for learning. Al was one that learned that he didn't like working for the Dark Space Authority, so he left.

OLIVIA

Why the clothes?

Beth shrugs.

BETH

He likes clothes.

Pamby sits next to Beth and covers a large yawn.

Al notices. He taps him on the arm.

AL

Bad sleep?

PAMBY

Be glad ya don't dream.

AL

What if I had good dreams?

PAMBY

You'd wake up disappointed.

Kat clears her throat, bringing the room to silence.

KAT

The engineers informed me that the cell chain overheated during a power test with the additional cells. We lost a cooling apparatus, which is a setback. But, we know where we can get them. That being said, a supply drop is on the way, which means I'll need volunteers for a trip outside.

The room is filled with collective groans.

KAT (CONT'D)

You know the drill: no one with family or dependents. Please, don't make me choose.

INT. WAR ROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

Deji, Al, Pamby, Beth, and Olivia make their way to the front of the emptying room. Kat, Ellis and Chief Micah are waiting.

DEJI

I think we could all use some fresh air.

KAT

That's good, because you'll be getting plenty. We'll start with the cooling units for Big Max. We need two, one to replace the one we lost-

PAMBY

And one to keep it from happening again.

Kat nods as she unfolds a map on the table, drawing lines and circles as she explains.

KAT

The fans are too large to transport by the train, so they go by this adjacent river instead.

PAMBY

Where to?

KAT

The landing, here. Luckily, the harvesters are creatures of habit, so their moves are like clockwork. We need this job to go right the first time. Ellis knows the route, so he'll take Pamby and his crew on a scouting trip tomorrow.

PAMBY

(flatly)

We ain't a crew.

An awkward moment lands on the group room...

DEJI

...and the supply drop?

KAT

I'll lead a team to collect the drop.

CHIEF MICAH

I can get the supplies a hell of a lot closer if we give the DSA our current coordinates.

KAT

Absolutely not. I've kept the DSA in the dark about our movements in case of harvesters intercepting messages.

BETH

Have they done that?

Kat shrugs.

KAT

They found the other silos somehow.

Olivia interjects from behind Deji.

OLIVIA

I'll volunteer for pick-up, for the supplies.

KAT

You know how to read a map?

OLIVIA

Yes, ma'am.

Kat folds up the map on the table and hands it to Olivia, who tucks it away underneath her vest.

KAT
Good, one less 'volunteer' for me
to pick.

INT. STAGING AREA, BAY 3

Pamby and Deji wait at their humvee on opposite sides, running through their weapons and equipment.

Ellis sits on the hood, cracking his knuckles one by one. SILO SOLDIERS pace around the humvee, which sports a machine gun on top.

IN THE CONNECTING TUNNEL

Beth and Al converse quietly.

BETH
I'm worried about him, Al. I
thought it was behind him, but it's
like the scab has been ripped clean
off.

AL
You wish we weren't here?

Beth takes Al's hand.

BETH
Oh goodness, no. The only reason I
wouldn't want you here is so you
didn't have to endure this
nightmare with us.

AL
How are you?

BETH
I'm doing okay. As awful as this
ordeal is, it almost feels like...
an opportunity?

Olivia approaches from the tunnel with a rifle and gear bag over her shoulder. Beth and Al snap to normalcy.

BETH (CONT'D)
(to Olivia)
So, you've decided to run the
fools' errand after all?

OLIVIA
You sound like my father.

Olivia glances over her shoulder before speaking.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
What's with Pamby and Deji? Not
exactly two peas in a pod.

Beth takes a deep breath and shares a glance with Al.

BETH
Not so much anymore, no. We used to
run together, the four of us - plus
a fifth named Valerie. We all
thought of her as a younger sister,
and Pamby was very protective. It
was very sweet, really.

OLIVIA
Where is she now?

BETH
We took a demo contract with the
Syndicate. They were powerful
enough to pay well and keep the DSA
off of us most of the time.

Beth sighs.

BETH (CONT'D)
But, Val was novice and took a
little longer than the rest of us
to plant her ordnance. The
explosives went while she was
inside. Deji had the detonator, so
naturally Pamby thought he
accidentally set them off. Deji
swears he didn't, but Pamby
wouldn't hear it. Still won't.

OLIVIA
I'm so sorry.

BETH
Firemine's Gulch is a canyon with
all of the warehouses suspended by
cables. It's what makes it secure.
Pamby thought that perhaps Val
survived and waited for us down
inside the canyon, but we couldn't
go back. The DSA was all over the
place for years during the rebuild.

OLIVIA
Is it possible that she did?

KAT (O.S.)
Let's mount up!

Beth looks Olivia in the eyes.

BETH
No, I wouldn't say so.

All three head to the humvees.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Beth's humvee flies down the forest road, colorful foliage blurring together on both sides of the vehicle.

INSIDE THE HUMVEE

Beth is driving. Ellis is white-knuckling the door handle in the passenger's seat, his eyes fixed on the road ahead.

BETH
How often do you run into trouble?

ELLIS
More than we'd like.

Deji props his rifle on his knee and checks the chamber.

INT. KAT'S FLATBED

Kat drives with Olivia in the passenger seat, who studies the surrounding forest. She glances at the compass on her wrist before pulling Kat's map from her vest.

KAT
We'll only need that if we re-route because of harvies.

Olivia tucks the map away.

KAT (CONT'D)
I'm glad you came. I need more people like you.

OLIVIA
Like me?

KAT

You've survived out here. It takes a different breed to make it on the outside. Plus, no one volunteers to come out without a good reason.

Olivia pauses, picking at her finger nails...

OLIVIA

I need to make sure the medicine in the drop gets picked up.

KAT

If you want it done right, you have to do it yourself?

OLIVIA

Trusting people I don't know hasn't kept us alive this long. I have to do a lot of looking out for my dad. He's not built for... conflict.

A humvee pulls beside the flatbed. The gunner gets Kat's attention.

GUNNER

Bad news!

He gestures toward the sky. Kat sees the drone flying overhead.

KAT

I told him the fucking West.

INT. BETH'S HUMVEE - DAY

Beth glances at the sky.

BETH

Is that the drop?

Ellis perks up with furrowed brow.

ELLIS

It shouldn't be...

EXT. SUPPLY DROP SITE - DAY

Kat stares upward at the supply drop, which now hangs from its tangled parachute in a tree high above. A soldier in the tree saws away at the cable.

Olivia scans the forest with her rifle, every muscle tense.

TUNK - the large metal box hits the ground, shaking the earth beneath it.

Kat steps up and pulls the door open.

REVEAL:

An android similar to Al, but a bit larger and a bit more refined, stands in the middle of the box with its massive rifle in hand. Its naked, metal body is a shiny red -- its metal plating a perfectly assembled puzzle of curves and corners.

Kat looks at the RED ROBOT with furrowed brow.

JESSE (20s), looks on with glee.

JESSE
Looks like we finally got some
backup!

The soldiers begin high-fiving and celebrating in a semi-circle around the container.

AT THE FLATBED

Olivia dutifully scans the forest with rifle at the ready. She squints at movement in the distance...

BACK AT THE CONTAINER

The Red Robot steps out of the box, its head turning slowly as if studying its surroundings.

KAT
So, do you, talk?

A FLARE FLIES INTO THE SKY from the forest, only a few hundred meters away.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Incoming!

GUNFIRE erupts from the humvees.

KAT
I hope you at least listen! Put
that gun to use!

The robot's gaze doesn't budge from Kat.

She stares back with unease.

The Red Robot flicks its rifle in the blink of an eye and FIRES toward Kat, who dives around the side of the container.

Chaos ensues as GUNFIRE fills the forest.

The robot rolls sideways around the container just in time to see Kat scurry around the other side.

Soldiers pelt the robot's back with bullets, sending it scurrying to cover behind a tree.

IN THE FOREST

The harvester swarm surges forward, shaking the ground beneath them.

Though appearing to be previously human, the harvesters now have a dark red, shiny skin. They move with a certain twitchiness, almost too efficient and fast for their bodies to handle.

Their eyes are small and squinted. They are expressionless, seeming to care about nothing at all.

They wear heavy winter clothing and carry weapons. Some shoot back toward the humvees, but most run with little regard for their own lives.

AT THE HUMVEES

Olivia grits her teeth as she and the others shoot into the forest.

Kat dashes to the humvees as she shouts orders.

KAT

You three: keep the android pinned!
Everyone else at the front!

She takes a running leap onto the hood of the humvee and drops into the gunner's seat. She swings the turret around, ready to unleash hell on the oncoming force.

EXT. OLD MINING RAIL - DAY

Beth's humvee flies over the smooth, somewhat overgrown track.

INSIDE THE HUMVEE

Ellis is still white-knuckling in the passenger seat.

BETH
How far off?

ELLIS
Not far, long as this old track
stays clear.

EXT. SUPPLY DROP SITE - DAY

Kat grits her teeth behind the BELLOWING .50 CAL.

Harvesters are closing in.

KAT
Olivia! Take the gun!

Olivia clambers onto the humvee and takes Kat's place as Kat slides down into the driver's seat.

INSIDE THE HUMVEE

Kat turns the key, bringing the vehicle to life, then exits.

OUTSIDE THE HUMVEE

BULLETS ZIP past and pepper the humvees as some harvesters return fire.

Kat turns just before a weighted net comes crashing over her, taking her to the ground. The harvesters descend upon them.

ATOP THE HUMVEE

Olivia swings the turret back and forth.

CLICK - she racks the bolt....

CLICK - out of ammunition.

A harvester sprints toward her and leaps onto the hood of the humvee. She tries to duck, but it's too late...

Thunk - Her gaze meet the eyes of the harvester as the decapitated head falls onto the humvee next to her.

REVEAL:

Al is moving at a literally inhuman speed, slashing through harvesters with a massive bowie knife.

Beth's humvee comes speeding through the forest and drifts to a stop. Deji jumps out, rifle at the ready.

DEJI
Set the line!

Kat cuts away at her net and climbs out, immediately going to help her netted cohorts.

AT THE BACK OF THE DROP SITE

Al catches a glimpse of the Red Robot behind cover. The pair hold uncertain eye contact. Al's head tilts to the side, like a confused dog...

Jesse watches from behind a large tree before a net falls over him. Harvesters drag him into the forest.

JESSE
Agh! Just kill me, you animals!

The Red Robot FIRES toward Al, sending him to cover. Al removes the revolver from his hip and checks the cylinder.

BACK AT BETH'S HUMVEE

Beth digs a black duffel from the trunk as Pamby pulls their six-shot grenade launcher from the back seat.

Olivia drops from the humvee and scrambles inside the supply drop -- BULLETS PEPPERING the exterior.

INSIDE THE CONTAINER

Olivia crouches, shoulders sagging. It's Empty.

BACK AT BETH'S HUMVEE

Beth tosses Kat a gas mask from her duffel.

Pamby tightens his mask and primes the grenade launcher.

PAMBY
Firin'!

He FIRES in a circle around the site. A thick, yellow gas sprays from the cans, blanketing the forest in a dense fog.

Al and the Red Robot dash back and forth in the background, unaffected by the smoke.

Harvesters cough and wheeze, retreating blindly.

Everyone loads up, those without masks being helped by those that have them.

DEJI
Al! Let's go!

Al's head snaps toward Deji.

The Red Robot CHARGES, pinning him to the ground. He brings his gun to Al's forehead...

Tunk, tunk, tunk -- Pamby launches grenades which EXPLODE into the Red Robot, sending it sprawling backward. Al rolls away and makes a staggered run to the humvee.

Vehicles fly past suffering harvesters, into the mist.

BACK AT THE SUPPLY DROP CONTAINER

The Red Robot emerges from the yellow cloud. The caravan is gone, but something catches its eye inside the supply drop...

INT. BAY 3 - SILO 6 - DAY

The humvees and truck pull into the bay. The people and vehicles look equally ravaged.

Kat climbs out, ripping the gas mask from her face. Pamby and the others spill out of their humvee.

PAMBY
What in all hell was that?

KAT
(to the guards)
Somebody find me Chief Micah!

She scans the group, counting heads as she goes.

KAT (CONT'D)
Fuck!

She pounds the humvee in frustration.

BETH
What's the matter?

KAT
We're missing two.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - EVENING

A long troop transport truck is parked, surrounded by harvesters. One slaps chains on Jesse's wrists and shoves him up the foldout stairs and into the back.

STICKS CRACK in the forest behind them. The harvies turn with guns raised.

The Red Robot emerges with one hand up, the other holding Olivia in front of him. He shoves Olivia, sending her to the ground near the truck.

The harvesters lower their guns and collect her.

INT. HARVESTER PRISON TRANSPORT - A SHORT TIME LATER

Jesse and Olivia are the only two in the back of the moving truck, which is sealed off from the cab.

Jesse yanks at his chains, but stops and grimaces in pain. He inspects his ribs just underneath his bulletproof vest.

Blood is soaking into his clothing. The truck starts moving.

Olivia watches the small compass on her wristband.

INT. CREW GARAGE - SILO 6

Deji's speeder sits idly in the middle of the garage while Deji cleans equipment at the work bench.

On the other side of the garage, Pamby is using a welder to make a repair to Al's shoulder. He powers it down and removes his welding mask.

PAMBY
Give 'er a shot.

Al rotates his arm and gives a thumbs up. Pamby pats him on the back and sits down to work on the speeder.

DEJI
Hey, Al. You know the android?

AL
*I used to. It has been changed...
Upgraded.*

DEJI
Any attachment, there?

AL
*Our objectives have changed. The
people here, now; they are my
priority.*

Deji puts down his equipment to free his hands.

DEJI
(signing)
*Do you think they would take you
back? If you wanted to go?*

AL
Why would I want to go back?

Pamby approaches the table and takes a deep breath.

PAMBY
At the risk a soundin' crazy... I
think there's somethin' bigger
goin' on here. Don't know what; but
I don't plan on waitin' to find
out.

DEJI
Saving the world seemed too simple?

PAMBY
(to Al)
You think it was personal between
her and the android?

AL
*No. Any android working with the
DSA is following orders.*

PAMBY
Whatever games are bein' played,
I'm not comfortable bein' on the
board without knowin' the rules.

DEJI
You want to break the contract?

PAMBY
Ain't no money earned if we're
dead. Better chance of us findin' a
way off the surface if we got more
eyes lookin'. Once we're off I got
nothin' for ya, but I suppose we'd
cross that bridge if we come to it.

Deji sighs and glances at Al.

DEJI

I appreciate your concerns, but there's no life for us without a clean record. I'd rather die fighting here than end up begging for scraps on a street corner.

PAMBY

Just thought I'd ask.

Pamby walks past him and toward the door.

Deji ponders his next words briefly before taking the plunge.

DEJI

Does Beth know you want to leave?

PAMBY

What happens to Beth ain't your concern anymore. Hasn't been for quite some time, and frankly, I don't know if it ever was.

Deji shakes his head and rubs his eyes.

DEJI

All this time and we still can't move past this.

Pamby's face grows red with anger.

PAMBY

Time don't change nothin if nothin's changed. We'll start to move past this when you admit that you fucked up.

DEJI

I would admit that I made a mistake if I made a mistake. I can't believe I have to say this again, but I did not push that button.

PAMBY

What about today? You gonna deny that you volunteered to put us all in harms way?

Deji stands with every muscle tensing.

DEJI
You truly think we had a choice?
What happens when Ellis tells
everyone we let Kat die?

Pamby holds a hard, silent stare.

DEJI (CONT'D)
Typical, Pamby. Just looking for
someone to blame, someone to be
angry at because things didn't go
as planned. And here we are back to
working together. What a joyous
fucking time.

PAMBY
I'll work alongside ya's to stay
alive, but we're sure as hell not
workin' together -- not by any
stretch.

Pamby exits, slamming the door behind him.

INT. HARVESTER PRISON TRANSPORT - NIGHT

Olivia watches Jesse stir from sleep. His face is pale. His
breathing is labored and his speech is slurred.

JESSE
Hey, Olivia, right?

OLIVIA
You should rest.

He turns and stretches his leg, grinding his teeth. The
handle of a knife protrudes from his boot. He nods his head
toward his foot before losing consciousness.

Olivia gently kicks his leg, concealing the knife.

INT. SILO 3 - LOADING BAY

The prison transport enters a loading area attached to a
tunnel. A track runs through like a miniature subway.

The Red Robot slides off the back of the truck and watches.

Olivia and Jesse are pulled from the transport where their
shackles are removed. Both are pushed toward an open-top
railcar as it comes gliding to a stop with eight other human
passengers.

Jesse stumbles and falls to his knees. He starts to stand, but Olivia drops to a knee and kisses him.

RED ROBOT POV:

Tiny numbers and words flash at the edges of the robot's HUD. It zooms in on Olivia's hands, watching them work down to Jesse's boot and tuck something into her own pant leg.

Olivia whispers in Jesse's ear.

OLIVIA

Thank you.

Harvesters drag Olivia backward, yanking her up and pushing her toward the train car.

A harvester inspects Jesse, lifting his shirt to expose his bloody side. It aims a pistol at Jesse's head and FIRES.

The train car passengers watch in shock as Jesse's lifeless body crumbles. The train car departs.

CLOSE ON:

A black, pea-sized patch is stuck to the back of Olivia's right shoulder.

The Red Robot slides an armor plate upward on its forearm, revealing a small screen with a blinking dot moving across.

INT. SILO 3 - MAIN CAVERN

The train car emerges from the tunnel ten stories above the cavern floor, racing above a small underground city of lifts and rail tracks. The surface crawls with harvesters, like ants on food scraps.

Olivia wipes sweat from her brow with wide eyes.

OLIVIA

Holy shit...

Stone pillars reach hundreds of feet to the ceiling. Power cells and large fans surround the pillar in layers. Thick cables branch out like giant spiderwebs.

Square mining elevators are spaced out every fifty yards as far as the eye can see. Carts filled with rubble are swapped for empties as the elevators close and fall out of sight.

Long ramps work their way from the floor of the cavern to the desert floor above. Doors close and open to the outside world. At the center of the ceiling is a skeletal white dome.

The train car drops toward the bustle below.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - SILO 6

Chief Micah peers over his readers, scrolling through his tablet with furrowed brow. His cigar is held tightly in his lips. A KNOCK on the DOOR.

Pamby enters, lightly shutting the door behind him.

CHIEF MICAH

I already told Kat, I got nothin' for ya. No info, no explanation, no good news. Hell, wish I even had some bad news. Feels like I'm waitin' for the phone to ring the day after a damn date.

Pamby pulls up a chair and falls into it with a soft GRUNT.

PAMBY

It's been nothin' but heartbreak so far.

Micah slaps his tablet closed and removes his readers, rubbing his eyes.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

Ya know, when things go south, the blame tends to head north.

Micah's face scrunches into a scowl.

CHIEF MICAH

If you're tryin' to lay this shit-show on me, I won't hear it.

Pamby holds up his hands in surrender.

PAMBY

I know we've been dealt a shit hand, maybe you worst of all. But, the people trust Kat, she's been with 'em all this time. That leaves one person left with any authority.

CHIEF MICAH

Are you threatenin' me?

PAMBY

Not at all. I'm tellin' ya that I've seen this play out before, and when it comes to puttin' a head on a stake, angry townsfolk don't start with spearin' the damn help.

CHIEF MICAH

It would be wise for everyone to remember that I am the only DSA contact for this operation. Without me, the whole thing falls apart.

PAMBY

Just think for a second, Chief. You were sent to tell a strugglin' group that they're stuck on a planet with a disease that no one knows how to stop. Does that sound like a job for someone who ain't expendable?

Micah holds a hard stare.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

(flatly)

Kat said they sent cons here and used them for labor. They never stopped sending them, did they.

A tense beat. Micah gnaws on his cigar.

Pamby leans back with a sigh.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

Skylark is a prison disguised as paradise. But, you were right about one thing: you're right here with us.

Micah's stare bores into Pamby as he rises and exits.

INT. GAS CHAMBER - SILO 3

Olivia and the other passengers are forced into the hazy chamber. Unease hangs in the stale air.

A pink mist pours from the ceiling.

Olivia drops, takes a deep breath and covers her mouth. The others cough and wheeze, crumbling to the ground. The haze sits over her like a storm cloud on a mountain peak.

Eternal seconds pass...

The DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE. A harvester stumbles in wearing a red, full-body hazmat suit with a small air tank on the arm.

ON THE FLOOR

The harvester boot lands next to Olivia. She pulls Jesse's knife from her ankle and yanks the leg, bringing the harvester to the ground.

INT. INCUBATION CHAMBER - SILO 3 - CONTINUOUS

Olivia exits the gas chamber wearing the harvester's suit, finding herself inside a room lined with cots. Every bed is filled with humans sleeping in the fetal position, their skin glistening with sweat.

Heaters distort the air around them. Beaded water clings to every surface.

She walks through, studying the different shades of pink skin on each victim until she comes to a door. She blinks sweat from her eyes and exits.

INT. HALLWAY - SILO 3 - CONTINUOUS

Olivia walks the crowded halls of the underground lair. All of the harvesters move fluidly around one another, like magnets that refuse to touch.

She pauses, noticing a door exiting the structure. HARVESTER 1 passes by, bumping her as it goes. It stops.

Olivia puts her head down and hurries to the exit.

INT. FREIGHT AREA - SILO 3 - CONTINUOUS

Olivia emerges from the building into a cavern with stacks of storage containers and barrels.

Flatbed trucks are being loaded and unloaded, everything flowing like a well oiled machine.

Harvester 1 exits behind Olivia, it's eyes focused on her.

She ducks behind a stack of crates. It follows briskly.

BEHIND THE CRATES

Olivia disappears around another corner. Harvester 1 is gaining ground-

A LARGE KNIFE is driven into its temple. The Red Robot steps into frame and catches the harvester before it hits the ground. It opens a crate and stuffs the cadaver inside.

The Robot disappears as quickly as it arrived.

BEHIND A STACK OF CONTAINERS

Olivia peers out from the shadows, hidden by the freight. She scans the area and takes deep, intentional breaths.

INT. STAGING AREA, BAY 3 - EARLY MORNING

Deji, Al, Kat, Chief Micah, and Ellis consult a map on the back of a flatbed truck, which is flanked by a humvee.

Kat and Micah run their fingers along the various positions and routes. Onlookers stifle yawns and rub bags from under their eyes.

CHIEF MICAH

I told him to meet here. In theory we could tag 'em and bag 'em and finish the job, but I wouldn't call it advisable.

KAT

We don't have much of a choice, just make sure he's deaf and blind. You should still be able catch the barge on the first landing, here. If you miss it, you'll have to haul ass to make the second landing, here. Beyond that is too far West to risk it.

Beth and Pamby approach with their black duffel and six-shot grenade launcher, tossing it in the back of humvee.

ELLIS

You take that everywhere?

BETH

Never leave home without it.

Kat hands Pamby and Ellis each an old school walkie-talkie.

KAT

It's the best we can do. You'll be out of range from me for a while, but call when you're close.

CHIEF MICAH

Ya know, there's no shame in waitin' on the cooling units. Be a lot smoother if they could get a scouting run in, like you planned.

KAT

Our hand is being forced every day we stay here. The sooner we get the equipment, the sooner Operation Marathon goes into effect. Let's play our cards before the harvesters know what we've got.

PAMBY

What's Operation Marathon?

KAT

We ready to leave the silo.

Chief Micah massages his temples as he walks away.

KAT (CONT'D)

Good luck, everyone.

The rest of the group nods as they depart to the vehicles.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - MORNING

Light is barely beginning to peak over the horizon.

A freight truck emerges from a ramp in the desert floor, passing others that are entering.

Underneath the trailer, Olivia lays on top of the spare tire rack that hangs below the frame. She ditches the gas mask and unzips the body suit, retrieving Kat's map from her vest.

She studies the map, her compass, and the surrounding desert.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - MORNING

The Red Robot flies over the desert road on a speeder bike with two, four foot long cases attached to the sides.

It glances at the screen on its wrist. The dot blinks at the edge. The Android punches the throttle.

EXT. FOREST TRUCKING ROUTE - DAY

Olivia's freight truck slows to take a turn onto a narrow road, into the forest.

She swings back and forth from the frame and throws herself clear of the trailer before rolling to a stop. She takes out her map and traces Kat's markings with her finger.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Beth's humvee leads Ellis in the flatbed truck as they move down the red clay road at a steady speed.

INT. BETH'S HUMVEE - DAY

Pamby rides shotgun, with Deji and Chief Micah in the backseat.

BETH
(to Chief Micah)
You must have a silver tongue to charm your contact into coming to the surface.

CHIEF MICAH
I told him we found a cure, and that he should be the first to see it. Told 'im that he's the only person I trust to show it to.

DEJI
Ego can be a hell of a thing.

CHIEF MICAH
I wouldn't know, I'm just the help.

Pamby smiles to himself.

Micah playfully hits Deji on the arm.

CHIEF MICAH (CONT'D)
Hey, be gentle, would ya?

Deji smiles and winks.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - SAME TIME

Olivia lurks in the foliage near a footpath, stifling her breath and checking her compass as she moves.

A SMALL SPACECRAFT flies overhead.

Olivia flattens herself against the forest floor, watching the ship as it continues out of sight.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Chief Micah chews his lip alone in the middle of the field, his fingers tapping against his wrist behind his back.

A small spacecraft - the same that flew over Olivia - comes into view just above the tree line. The ship swirls into the clearing, coming to rest in front of Micah.

He squints through the wind shear and widens his stance.

One side of the domed cockpit opens. The pilot - Captain Steyer - climbs to the ground with a backpack.

Micah approaches with hand outstretched.

CHIEF MICAH
Welcome to paradise.

Steyer turns, a sour look on his pale face.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Keep your distance. The risk of me being here is already too high, especially on a trip that isn't on the books.

CHIEF MICAH
Fair enough. There room for me in that rig?

CAPTAIN STEYER
The DSA needs you on the ground, Chief. But show me if there's a way to stop this disease, and I'll get you your own starship.

Micah walks toward the tree line, motioning to follow.

CHIEF MICAH
Lookin' forward to that. Like I said, it's a natural cure - a plant native to Skylark. Talk about a stroke of luck.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Yes, great luck, indeed. How did you discover it? And that it works?

Micah gnaws his cigar, his eyes darting back and fourth.

CHIEF MICAH

We found a few harvies that looked,
well, half-cooked...

Steyer follows, watching Micah with furrowed brow.

Deji, Pamby and Al BURST from the foliage. Micah crumbles as Deji lands the butt of his rifle into Micah's stomach.

Captain Steyer reaches for a pistol in his waistband, but not before Al takes him down, holding his face in the dirt.

CAPTAIN STEYER

What the hell are you doing?!

Pamby quickly zip-ties Steyer's hands behind his back and ties a blindfold around his eyes.

PAMBY

Just ensurin' that you make the
right decision.

Al places a pair of thick noise-cancelling earmuffs over Steyer's ears and drags him up off the ground. Pamby places a black bag over his head as a final measure.

Deji offers a hand to Micah, who speaks with labored breaths.

CHIEF MICAH

I thought... You were gonna... hit
me...

Deji smiles and pulls him up.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Deji and Al load Steyer into the flatbed, throwing his backpack at his feet. He slumps against the seat.

Ellis checks his watch. Pamby and Beth approach.

PAMBY

That rig he flew in on could be
real useful for sprucin' up Big
Max's control modules.

ELLIS

You think you can fly it?

PAMBY

Those minis got standard controls -
nothin' any of us couldn't handle.
I can follow the convoy, be eyes in
the sky for the acquisition.

ELLIS

If it'll help with the build then
I'm in, but don't tail us. We'll
need surprise, and a ship overhead
don't fit the bill.

PAMBY

Then I'll meet ya back at the silo,
long as y'all can handle it without
me.

Ellis unclips his radio and hands to Pamby.

ELLIS

Keep the bird out of sight until we
get back. We'll call when we're
close to home.

PAMBY

Copy that.

Ellis, Deji and Al climb into their vehicles.

Beth turns to Pamby, gently taking his hand in hers.

BETH

Please don't ask me to leave them.
Not again.

Pamby pauses before kissing her hand.

PAMBY

It's just for parts.

Beth nods and pats his hands before heading to the humvee.

Pamby watches her go, then turns back to the forest.

EXT. BETH'S HUMVEE - SAME TIME

Beth climbs into the humvee, closing the door firmly.

Micah looks at the empty seat next to him in the back.

CHIEF MICAH

Everything all right?

Beth starts the humvee and slams it into gear.

Micah braces himself as the humvee surges forward.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Pamby emerges from the forest, his sights set on the spacecraft left by Captain Steyer. He heads toward the ship.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

The truck and humvee cruise over the road. Dense forest lines either side of the path.

UP THE ROAD: a small pile of brush blocking the way.

INT. BETH'S HUMVEE

Beth and Deji spot the blockade, both sitting up straight.

DEJI
What the hell...

The humvee stops a football field from the brush pile.

DEJI (CONT'D)
I don't like sitting still.

BETH
Copy that.

All four exit their vehicles and scan the forest on high alert.

DEJI
Split the road, move together, stay low.

Micah, Beth and Ellis scamper to one side with weapons drawn, while Deji and Al go to the other.

The group moves without an audible breath between them, each footstep chosen and executed with utmost care.

A figure exits the woods and moves toward them, arms waving.

Everyone stops and takes aim...

BETH
Oh my days, She's one of ours!

REVEAL:

Olivia jogs to the group.

Beth and Ellis break formation to meet her.

DEJI
(in a whisper)
Wait!

The trio meet in the middle of the road. Beth throws her arms around Olivia, who takes a moment to rest in her embrace.

BETH
What a sight for sore eyes you are!

Ellis offers a firm handshake.

Deji, Al and Micah approach from behind, eyes still scanning.

DEJI
You block the road?

OLIVIA
I had to see who was in the
transport before I made contact.

CHIEF MICAH
Smart gal. You seen any harvies?

Al fixates on something in the forest...

OLIVIA
Oh, I've seen more than that. We're
dealing with some-

AL JUMPS INTO ACTION - shoving Ellis to the ground and raising his pistol toward the forest. He lets off TWO BELLOWING SHOTS as the group scrambles.

A ROCKET flies haphazardly over the humvee.

IN THE FOREST

The Red Robot ducks and inspects a deep dent in it's armor, courtesy of Al's pistol. It reloads its rocket launcher.

ON THE ROAD

Beth takes off toward their humvee.

DEJI
No! Stay away from the truck!

Al takes off after her.

AT THE HUMVEE

Beth reaches through the window and grabs Kat's radio from the dashboard. She tries to go to the back before Al grabs her and starts to drag her from the vehicle.

BETH

The bag! We need the-

A second Rocket comes flying through the trees.

The EXPLOSION sends the humvee up in flames.

Beth and Al fly backward into the trees.

EXT. RIVER LANDING - DAY

A barge with a crane sits against a dock on the side of a large river. Harvesters use the crane to load a huge cooling apparatus onto the boat.

Progress stops. The harvesters looks toward the sound of AN EXPLOSION in the far distance.

Above the tree line, a cloud of smoke rises.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - AMBUSH SITE - DAY

Deji crouches behind a downed tree and FIRES toward the Red Robot. Micah helps Al pull Beth behind an overgrown log.

Ellis takes off toward the flatbed.

IN THE FOREST

The Red Robot discards the rocket launcher and brandishes a rifle.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD

Micah is tending to a ragged Beth. Her hair sticks to her bloodied face. Her hand trembles in Micah's grip.

DEJI

(to Al)

Cover me!

Deji hurdles the tree, taking off across the road.

Al shakes his head and follows.

BACK AT THE ROAD

Ellis spins the steering wheel furiously as he turns the truck around on the narrow road.

ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Olivia and Micah crouch next to Beth. GUNFIRE rings out. Micah studies Beth's injuries, his voice shaking.

CHIEF MICAH

I don't - I - I don't know...

Olivia tears a piece of her shirt and dabs at the wounds.

IN THE FOREST

Deji dives from tree to tree as bullets WHIZ PAST. He digs a four inch, black disc out of his vest pocket.

Al takes cover and reloads his pistol.

Deji holds the disc in the air for Al to see.

Al shakes his head vigorously.

Deji smiles and takes off toward the Red Robot.

BACK ON THE ROAD

Micah approaches the truck with the bloodied Beth in his arms. He places her gently on the flatbed and climbs aboard.

Ellis shouts out of his window.

ELLIS

Strap in best you can!

IN THE FOREST

Deji sprints toward the Red Robot with the disc in hand.

He HEAVES THE DISK toward the Robot just as a bullet RIPS THROUGH HIS SHOULDER, sending him skidding across the ground.

The Red Robot barely dodges the projectile, watching as it flies past its head.

Deji watches from the ground as the disc lands on the forest floor, just behind the android. He smirks.

The disc EXPLODES, engulfing the Red Robot in a ball of flame and brown tree-dust.

Deji covers his head as smoke and debris fill the air.

BACK AT THE FLATBED

Olivia and Micah watch Al disappear inside the cloud. Beth reaches to Olivia, who crouches beside her.

BETH
Are... are they OK?

Olivia takes her shaky hand and watches the forest...

Deji cradles his injured arm as he and Al emerge.

OLIVIA
Never better.

The pair climb onto the flatbed. Micah smacks the cab.

The truck's wheels create a flurry of dust as it takes off.

Deji kneels by Beth and tears a piece of cloth from her ripped shirt. He dabs the blood from her face.

BACK AT THE AMBUSH SITE

The Red Robot emerges from the smoke cloud and stands in the road, a flare gun at its side. Its armor is scratched, dented and smudged.

It watches the truck fade into the distant, raises the flare gun, and FIRES.

INT. STAGING AREA, BAY 3 - EVENING

The flatbed rolls in from the outside twilight. The group on the back of truck are tattered and caked in dust. Ellis shouts to the guards.

ELLIS
Hold that door! One more comin'!

Ellis climbs out of the truck, where Kat waits with wide eyes. She sees Beth and points to a flatbed cart parked in the bay.

KAT
Take that and get her to the infirmary.

Al picks up Beth and gracefully dismounts, taking her straight to the cart.

Olivia and Deji follow close behind. Kat grabs Olivia, her eyes lighting up.

KAT (CONT'D)
How are you here?

OLIVIA
My dad, I need to see him.

KAT
Right, yes, go.

Olivia jumps onto the cart next to Beth as Deji hops into the driver's seat. They take off down the tunnel.

Steyer's ship descends into view outside the garage door, and slowly floats inside.

ELLIS
It's Pamby. He thinks our visitor's ride could be useful for parts.

Kat rolls her eyes and walks slowly around the flatbed. She surveys the damage, running her hand along the side.

KAT
How many harvies?

ELLIS
None. Just the android.

KAT
And our guest of honor?

Al pulls a sweaty, dusty Captain Steyer from the cab.

CHIEF MICAH
He thinks I'm captured.

KAT
Steer clear of the war room until we get what we need. Ellis, how soon can Max be ready to move?

ELLIS

He'll be low on power, but we could
button things up in a few hours.

KAT

Spread the word - Operation
Marathon is a go. If the wick on
this bomb wasn't lit before, it
certainly is now.

Chief Micah steps after Kat as she turns to leave.

CHIEF MICAH

Kat, please, think about this. The
silo is the safest place we can be
while we figure this shit out. It's
a stronghold, and it will keep us
safe if we allow it to.

Kat spins to face him.

KAT

This silo is a catacombs, and if we
stay, it will be filled. You are
welcome to defend it as long as you
please, but the rest of us will not
die hiding under the floorboards of
this god forsaken planet.

Kat turns and heads down the dark tunnel.

INT. INFIRMARY - A SHORT TIME LATER

Olivia and Deji carry Beth into the inside, laying her on the
first cot available. Deji favors his injured shoulder.

Olivia turns to see Benson, who's face is pale and unmoving.

Doctor Silvi has gone stock still, freezing with the top of a
white bedsheet in his hands. The rest of the sheet is already
laid over Benson.

OLIVIA

What are you-

Olivia's face falls. Tears build as her lip quivers.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

No...

Doctor Silvi looks down and makes nervous, jerking movements.

DOCTOR SILVI
Oh no, I'm, I'm so sorry.

He folds the sheet below Benson's face and tries to leave.

DEJI
(quietly)
Hey Doc, A little help over here.

Silvi dons a pair of gloves and goes to Beth.

Olivia collapses on Benson, hugging him as best she can. Her tears soak the sheet under her head.

Deji grabs a blanket from an open bed and puts it over Olivia's shoulders.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - AMBUSH SITE - EVENING

Headlights of two humvees approach, coming to a stop at the brush pile. Harvesters exit the vehicle with weapons drawn.

On the other side of the brush pile the Red Robot leans against its speeder bike. Waiting, watching.

The harvesters begin clearing the brush.

The Red Robot pulls a large knife from inside its armor.

INT. INFIRMARY - SILO 6

Beth is partially bandaged as Silvi continues to remove shrapnel from her torso. She is breathing, but not awake.

Deji watches, holding Beth's bloodied hand. His injured arm is in a makeshift sling.

Olivia sits next to Benson's body in silence with tears still staining her face.

Pamby bursts through the door. He runs to Beth's side and gently caresses her head.

PAMBY
How bad is it?

The Doctor continues to work as he answers.

DOCTOR SILVI
She's lost significant amounts of
blood, and stopping the bleeding
will be difficult.
(MORE)

DOCTOR SILVI (CONT'D)

The likelihood of infection is high, and I have nothing to combat it outside of hand soap and alcohol.

PAMBY

What do you mean you have nothing? What kind of doctor doesn't have medicine?

DOCTOR SILVI

My work has largely been in research, but I volunteered to help while I'm here.

Pamby motions toward Benson.

PAMBY

Yeah, a lot a good that's done.

A shocked silence...

Doctor Silvi drops his tweezers and removes his gloves.

DOCTOR SILVI

Save your own fucking wife.

He throws the bloody gloves in Pamby's face and exits.

OLIVIA

The antibiotics were supposed to come on the supply drop. It wasn't his fault that my dad died.

Deji starts after Doctor Silvi.

DEJI

How do you so easily piss off our best chance at saving her?

PAMBY

She wouldn't need savin' if you kept her safe!

Deji turns heel, his finger thrust into Pamby's face.

DEJI

Shit hit the fan and YOU weren't there, and that was the decision that YOU made.

Pamby slaps the finger away and gives Deji a push.

PAMBY
Get that fuckin' finger outta my
face you-

Deji's PUSHES Pamby, sending him backward to the floor.

Olivia jumps between them.

OLIVIA
Beth is dying you morons! What is
the hell is the matter with you?!

A GROGGY GROAN comes from Beth as she turns her head.

Pamby jumps up and goes to her.

PAMBY
Hey, honey. I'm here.

DEJI
I'll get the Doc.

Deji runs out the door.

Beth CLEARS HER THROAT, trying to speak.

PAMBY
Shh, shh. Rest.

She trails off, closing her eyes. Pamby strokes her hair.

Doctor Silvi enters and gets another pair of gloves.

PAMBY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Doc. It's just, it's
been one of those days.

DOCTOR SILVI
It has been 'one of those days'
every day for an eternity for the
rest of us. Please, just leave me
to work.

Pamby squeezes Beth's hand and nods before exiting, his face
turning beet red.

INT. WAR ROOM (SILO 6)

Al stands behind Captain Steyer, who is now seated in a
folding chair near the middle table. His blindfold, earmuffs,
gag and bag have been removed, but his hands are still bound.

Kat leans against the table with arms crossed. Steyer's backpack is laying on the table behind her, open.

Pamby, Olivia and Deji enter and make their way to the table.

Steyer struggles to speak, each sentence taxing his body.

CAPTAIN STEYER

You are wasting precious time with this ill-advised venture. Without me topside, I can't get you supplies.

KAT

The last supply drop tried kill us. I'm very happy with no more.

CAPTAIN STEYER

What? If the DSA insists on using faulty equipment, that's not on me.

PAMBY

You also failed to mention that the 'defectin' settlers' are actually infected human beings.

CAPTAIN STEYER

None of you would have come if you knew about the virus. I did what I had to do to get you here and give you a fighting chance at a new life. Besides, every one of you has put yourself here, one way or another.

Steyer looks around the group, stopping at Olivia.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

Except you. I don't know who you are.

Olivia doesn't flinch as Steyer moves on.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

But the rest of you, the rest of you sealed your fates at Firemine's Gulch, six years ago.

KAT

We're not here to reminisce. We need to know what's happening here, and now.

Pamby steps forward.

PAMBY

What's that about the gulch?

CAPTAIN STEYER

Oh, Kat hasn't told you?

KAT

There is a killer android hunting us, and we would rather gossip about what happened years-

PAMBY

-We can't know how move to forward if we don't know where the hell we're comin' from!

Captain Steyer smirks.

OLIVIA

Enough!

The rooms falls silent.

Olivia steps forward and crouches in front of Steyer, pulling a pistol from her waistband. She speaks deliberately.

The smirk melts from Steyer's face.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Let's start with this Firemine's Gulch. And, when you speak, consider that the two people I cared about the most in my life are dead, and my home has been destroyed.

Kat and the other shift uncomfortably behind her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

So, be honest, and understand that when I say that I have nothing left to lose, **I mean it.**

Kat shrinks in defeat. Her stare bores into the ground.

Steyer chooses his words carefully.

CAPTAIN STEYER

Kat organized the operation in Firemine's Gulch. Her objective was to eliminate tower forty-nine.

Pamby barks more than speaks.

PAMBY

Why?

CAPTAIN STEYER

The Dark Space Authority received a tip that illegal trials were underway to create a super-virus-

OLIVIA

-So the DSA decided to blow up a tower based on a tip?

Captain Steyer shoots her an icy side-eye.

Olivia racks her pistol and places it against Steyer's thigh.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

If you'd like to walk normally again, I need the truth.

CAPTAIN STEYER

I am telling the truth.

Olivia closes her eyes and turns her head, plugging her ear. She FIRES HER PISTOL into Steyer's leg.

The group jumps back in shock.

Steyer SCREAMS in pain.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

Fuck! Oh Fuck! Fuck you!

Kat steps forward.

KAT

We can't kill him!

OLIVIA

Why not?

Kat stays silent.

Steyer breathes heavily. His forehead glistens with sweat. Blood soaks his pant leg.

CAPTAIN STEYER

I don't know much about the virus - If that's even what it is. I know that the Dark Space Authority worked with the lab to create a super-bug. They wanted something - a tool - that they could use for total takeovers.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

Once the project was finished, they needed to tie up loose ends by getting rid of that lab, and anyone inside it. Kat was tasked with demolition. She hired a group of mercenaries to complete the job. Those mercenaries are right here, in this room.

DEJI

We were hired by the Syndicate, not the DSA.

Steyer seethes through clenched teeth.

CAPTAIN STEYER

Open your eyes, man. The Syndicate is an arm of the Dark Space Authority. We can't stop the crime, so we use it to our advantage. And use it to our advantage, Kat certainly has.

Kat shuffles uncomfortably, her eyes darting around the room.

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

What she doesn't want me to say about the Gulch, is that none of you were supposed to survive the operation. For some reason, the explosives weren't placed in time to kill all of you inside. So, we had to track you down and keep you on ice until we had an opportunity to finish clipping loose ends. Skylark is that happy opportunity.

A stunned silence sits heavily over the war room. Everyone seems afraid to speak.

OLIVIA

Then, why are we fighting the harvesters? Why send supplies at all?

CAPTAIN STEYER

As a test. To know that it would work in a real world scenario, we had to know if an aided resistance could win. We're far enough along that the powers that be are ready to move forward.

PAMBY

Why not just level the place?

CAPTAIN STEYER

Oh, they will, but not until I say so. I have been the levy that stalls the destruction. Without me returning, be sure that the skies will fall on anything that so much as disturbs a spec of dust on this planet.

Kat turns and exits. Olivia rises and follows her.

The other bask in the revelation silently...

DEJI

Well, that's that, then.

Deji and Al exit, leaving Pamby and Captain Steyer.

PAMBY

If I get you off the planet, can you fulfill our contract?

CAPTAIN STEYER

With a snap of my fingers.

Pamby nods, turns, and exits. COLE (20s), enters as Pamby leaves, and stands in front of the door with arms crossed.

INT. HALLWAY - SILO 6

Olivia catches up to Kat, who walks briskly.

OLIVIA

What are you doing?

KAT

Packing. We still have to leave the silo. That's if they don't kill me, first.

OLIVIA

And what, we just drive around until the power runs out?

KAT

What would you propose we do?

OLIVIA

We attack.

KAT

I can't lead a suicide mission.

OLIVIA

We just found out that you already are. Just, stop.

Olivia grabs Kat's shoulder, spinning her around.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I saw it, Kat. I saw where they turn human beings to harvesters. It was, it was like a big incubator. The virus must need specific conditions to work. We can fight this - I know we can. This war has taken too much for us not to take something back.

Kat ponders, then shrugs.

KAT

We'll need help, and after what we just heard, I don't think we can count on that.

OLIVIA

Well, you probably can't.

INT. CREW GARAGE (SILO 6)

Deji and Al enter the garage. Al grabs him.

AL

Were you trying to be killed?

Deji sits at the table, where he digs into a gear bag with his healthy arm. Al stares at him.

AL (CONT'D)

*Is that why you ran at the robot?
Is that why we took this job?
Because you want to die?*

Deji settles his eyes on his equipment. He clumsily disassembles a rifle with one hand.

Al crosses the table and yanks the rifle away. Deji puts his head down with a sigh.

DEJI

I'm tired, Al. I'm always tired.
Have been for a long time.

Al taps the table - Deji looks up.

AL
*I do not want you to die. We will
be okay.*

DEJI
*'Okay' just doesn't feel like it
used to.*

The DOOR OPENS. Olivia enters with Kat and Ellis in tow. Kat carries a large, rolled up map.

OLIVIA
You two ready for action?

DEJI
Are you joking?

Al's gaze stays on Deji as the other three sit around the table. Kat unrolls the map.

DEJI (CONT'D)
(to Olivia)
Wait, wait, wait. This woman tried
to kill us, and you're expecting me
to help her?

OLIVIA
No, I'm asking you to help me. A
grieving daughter who wants to get
revenge on the people who killed
her family, and destroyed her home.
What you do with Kat afterward
isn't any of my business.

Kat and Ellis shoot her perturbed glances.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Plus, the alternative is to die
quietly in a cave. Sound appealing?

Al taps the table to get everyone's attention.

AL
We are in.

Everyone turns to Deji with confused looks.

DEJI
None of them know sign language,
you buffoon.

Deji takes a deep breath and sighs.

DEJI (CONT'D)

He says we're in. So, I guess we're in. What's the job?

OLIVIA

Winning the war.

Al and Deji watch as they study the map.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

By my estimation, I was taken here.

KAT

Silo three - one of the original domes.

OLIVIA

Either they built the originals bigger, or the harvesters have been hard at work. It's like a damn city down there.

Olivia unfolds one of the pieces of paper she is carrying, and puts it onto the table.

DEJI

What's that?

OLIVIA

Everything I remember about silo 3. Nothing particularly helpful.

Deji studies the document.

ELLIS

You think they tunnel by hand?

OLIVIA

No way in hell. They've got to have a machine of some sort. The caves are too vast.

DEJI

(gesturing to the list)

They run all of this off of the same power cells we stole? An entire mining operation?

OLIVIA

As far as I could tell. They were stacked inside, layered with fans around the pillars.

ELLIS

How many?

OLIVIA

Maybe... fifty per pillar?

KAT

How many pillars?

OLIVIA

Every hundred yards, as far as I could see.

Excitement slowly builds.

DEJI

How long did it take for our cell chain to overheat?

ELLIS

About a half hour under significant stress, but I'd have to see their grid to know what we're dealing with.

KAT

Is there a way to speed the process? To create a power surge?

ELLIS

You're talking about an EMP of sorts, and a big one at that.

DEJI

If we could make one, would it work?

ELLIS

In theory, if all the chains are connected then, yes, the remaining cells would take on a larger load and the surge would-

OLIVIA

It would grow like a wave.

For the first time, hope fills every face in the room.

KAT

(to Ellis)

Can you make one?

ELLIS

I've never tried. Maybe Pamby has?

A collective GROAN around the table.

OLIVIA
Only one way to find out.

INT. INFIRMARY

Doctor Silvi washes his hands as Pamby enters. Silvi dries his hands and exits, staring at the ground as he passes.

Beth is awake and rolls her head to face the door. Her voice is weak, like a sail without wind.

BETH
Thank you, Doctor Silvi.

He musters a smile with a nod before exiting.

PAMBY
How you doin', hun?

BETH
I'm afraid, Pamby.

Pamby pulls over a stool and softly rubs her arm.

PAMBY
Don't be. You're safe, and you're gonna get better.

BETH
I'm not afraid of harvesters, or of dying.

Beth looks up, lip quivering.

BETH (CONT'D)
I'm afraid I'm losing you. I'm afraid I've been losing you for a long time, and I haven't seen it clearly until now, and it might be too late.

PAMBY
You're never gonna lose me. I'd do anything for you - I'd give ya this whole world if that's what you wanted. You're the only thing I care about anymore.

BETH
But don't you see how that's the problem?

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

Do you remember how we used to laugh? How you would joke and carry on? You used to care about so much more - **be** so much more.

Pamby looks down and crosses his arms, like a crab retreating into his shell.

BETH (CONT'D)

I know you experienced an awful, terrible loss. But, loss happens every day. People grieve, they find a way to heal as best they can, and they crack on. I thought that giving you time to mend was the best way to love you. But now, I'm scared that while I waited, I let the best parts of you go while I sat by and watched.

A still, silent beat...

PAMBY

I've been angry for so long, I don't even know how not to be.

Pamby leans against the bed, his head hanging low.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

The only thing I'm sure of is that I need you, and I'll do anything for you. The rest we can figure out later on. But that means leavin' on Steyer's shuttle to get you proper care.

Beth shakes her head, tears being squeezed from her eyes.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

We can come back when you're healthy, if that's what you want.

Pamby white knuckles the sheets.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

But you could die if I don't get you the help you need.

Tears drip from Beth's face onto her bandages.

BETH

I would rather die with these people than live knowing that I abandoned them.

PAMBY

Even knowing that Kat is the reason Val is dead? That she took her from us? She is not worth our time, much less, our lives.

She shakes her head puts her hand onto his.

BETH

The scales of justice don't weigh in our favor, either. Our past is not without blemish. I can't ask you to make the same sacrifice that I would. And I won't ask you to give me the world. But, I hope in my heart of hearts, that if you're able, you would give it to someone who needs it.

The pair sit in solemn silence, unmoving.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

The Red Robot is flying along the forest road on the speeder bike.

The dot beeps at the edge of the screen on his wrist.

A DECAPITATED HARVESTER is draped over the rear of the bike behind the robot.

The HARVESTER HUMVEES are in chase, not far behind.

INT. INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Pamby sits at Beth's side as she sleeps. He scribbles on a note pad.

Kat and Olivia sit on the other side of Beth, waiting.

Pamby goes down the list, double-checking each line. He finishes and hands it to Kat.

PAMBY

Ellis'll know what it all means. If we don't have what's on that list, you're shit-outta-luck.

OLIVIA

We're. We're out of luck.

Pamby rises and heads toward the door.

PAMBY

As for the rest, keep your fingers
crossed.

Kat and Olivia share a side-eyed frown.

INT. WAR ROOM (SILO 6)

Captain Steyer is still seated with his hands and legs bound.

Pamby enters with a backpack over his shoulder.

PAMBY

(to Cole)

Ellis needs ya at Big Max. I'll
keep an eye on the prisoner.

Cole looks up, eyebrows raised.

COLE

Ellis needs me? I'm no engineer.

PAMBY

More needs your stronger, younger
back. I ain't cut out for the heavy
liftin' these days.

Cole, still a little confused, dutifully heads to the door.

Pamby lets the door shut before opening it slowly and peering
outside in both directions.

He pulls the door shut and hustles to Captain Steyer, where
removes Steyer's ankle restraints.

CAPTAIN STEYER

I painted you a smart man when we
met, but even so, I am impressed.

PAMBY

The things we do for love.

He helps him to his feet and goes behind, untying his wrists.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

You have access to records?

CAPTAIN STEYER

Sure, on my tablet.

Steyer rubs his chafed wrists as Pamby goes to his bag. He
pulls out the tablet and hands it to him.

PAMBY

Valerie Gorosh. She had a criminal record - probably mostly juvenile.

Steyer opens his tablet and goes to work.

Pamby waits, tapping his fingers on his folded arm.

CAPTAIN STEYER

She certainly did.

He hands the tablet to Pamby.

CLOSE ON: TABLET

Pamby scrolls down past Val's mugshot before seeing:

**DECEASED - DUAL DNA CONFIRMATION ON SCENE - EVENT 1377
(Firemine's Gulch)**

Pamby stares at the screen for a long beat...

CAPTAIN STEYER (CONT'D)

Pamby, can we go?

He snaps out of it and goes behind Steyer and begins re-wrapping his wrists behind him.

PAMBY

Hold this end in your palm. You're my prisoner, we clear?

CAPTAIN STEYER

Crystal.

Pamby digs through his bag and produces a revolver. He swings the cylinder open and spins it in front of Steyer, revealing that shells fill every chamber.

PAMBY

Anybody tries anything, we're not stopping.

Pamby tucks the pistol into the back of Steyer's waistband, underneath his faux-tied hands.

CAPTAIN STEYER

We will need to make room for one more passenger.

INT. MAIN GARAGE (SILO 6)

The garage is bustling with activity. Carts with supplies and people carrying luggage are streaming in and out of the giant ramp at the rear of Big Max.

AT ELLIS' WORK STATION

Ellis is placing tools on carts, sorting through a mess of a workspace.

He plops a coil of wire onto a cart and pauses to study Pamby's list.

INT. TUNNEL TO BAY 3 - SILO 6

Captain Steyer has his arms draped over Pamby and Doctor Silvi's shoulders as they help him down the tunnel. They cross through patches of light in the dim walkway.

PAMBY

Is the ship being tracked?

CAPTAIN STEYER

No, the craft is too small to be tracked on radar without an onboard beacon. For it's size, I'm rather impressed that the hull handled the Skylark atmosphere with such ease.

PAMBY

How much time will the silo have once we're off the planet?

CAPTAIN STEYER

Depends on my mood.

INT. BAY 3 - SILO 6 - CONTINUOUS

Steyer's ship still sits where Pamby left it. A humvee sits idly behind. The limping trio approach the vehicles.

CAPTAIN STEYER

Mind if I drive?

Steyer drops his hands from the faux restraints.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

I would mind.

All three stop dead in their tracks.

Olivia, Kat, Al, Deji, and Chief Micah step from behind the humvee. All are armed.

A smile creeps onto Steyer's face as he confidently puts his hands behind his back.

CAPTAIN STEYER
A proper send-off, I see.

OLIVIA
Care to explain why you've brought
the good Doctor?

Steyer GRABS DOCTOR SILVI from behind and PUTS THE REVOLVER
TO HIS HEAD.

Deji, Al and Kat raise their weapons in response.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Relax! Everyone just take a breath.
I can explain, but I want a
guarantee that you'll let me go.
And believe me when I say that you
want Silvi alive.

OLIVIA
Fine.

Captain Steyer takes a nervous glance around.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Everyone is in agreement?

Kat speaks through clenched teeth.

KAT
We agree.

CAPTAIN STEYER
Good. Doctor Silvi, here, headed
the project at the lab in
Firemine's Gulch, and only gets
full payment upon the success of
the harvester takeover.

OLIVIA
Then why would I want him alive?

CAPTAIN STEYER
Because he knows how to stop it.
And if you don't let me go, I will
kill him, and we'll all die
together. Now, if you don't mind.

Steyer moves toward the ship in a shuffle/limp, keeping Silvi in front. Silvi struggles with short, abrupt breaths.

PAMBY

That's enough.

Pamby walks quickly toward Steyer. Just as he gets close-

CLICK - Steyer pulls the trigger.

CLICK, CLICK - The cylinder spins as he continues.

Pamby lands A HAYMAKER against Captain Steyer's head.

Steyer collapses to the ground.

Pamby grabs the revolver, flips the cylinder open, and empties the shells onto the ground in front of Steyer.

HOLLOW SHELL CASINGS JINGLE on the floor - no bullets or gunpowder.

CAPTAIN STEYER

You set me up...

Olivia approaches Captain Steyer, who writhes on the ground.

OLIVIA

You lied to us.

CAPTAIN STEYER

I did, but I came clean. And we had an agreement that you'd let me go.

OLIVIA

I lied, too.

Olivia raises her pistol.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A group of harvesters shine flashlights on the decapitated harvester from the Red Robot's Bike, which now lays against a rock face at the bottom of a mountain.

The harvesters look up at the SOUND OF A MUFFLED GUNSHOT. They move toward it.

INT. BAY 3 - SILO 6

Captain Steyer's body lays lifelessly on the ground.

Everyone in the bay rubs the RINGING from their ears.

KAT

Doctor, I'd suggest you start talking.

Silvi sways back and fourth as tears stream down his face.

DOCTOR SILVI

They're like ants, the harvesters. They serve something... something like a queen. Without it, we think they'll fall apart.

OLIVIA

Think?

DOCTOR SILVI

We haven't reached that part of this test.

KAT

Where is the queen?

DOCTOR SILVI

No one knows. We think it's grown beyond what we thought, but it's stayed underground. I can't even say for sure its size, but with the up-tic in tremors, it could be seismic activity, big.

Olivia sighs and thinks to herself.

CHIEF MICAH

So, we kill the beast, we end the harvesters?

DOCTOR SILVI

I wish I could say exactly what would happen, but I simply don't know.

KAT

Have you told anyone in the DSA?

DOCTOR SILVI

No. It was the only way to ensure they wouldn't leave me here.

OLIVIA

That just leaves us with what to do with you.

DOCTOR SILVI
Please don't kill me.

Silvi falls to his knees, speaking between sobs.

DOCTOR SILVI (CONT'D)
I wasn't even supposed to be here
this long. They were going to take
me before it got bad, but it all
got out of hand so quickly. I never
even got to study the harvesters,
dead or alive. It's all gone
horribly, horribly wrong. I was
just doing my job.

Pamby, Kat, Deji, Al, and Chief Micah look down - a hint of
shame in their faces.

Olivia looks around and scratches her head.

OLIVIA
Yes, a tale as old as time. But,
don't worry, I won't kill you.

Olivia walks to the man-door next to the garage door and
grabs the handle.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
I think you should find your
creations, and study them. It's
only right.

Silvi pleads to Kat and the others.

DOCTOR SILVI
No, please. Please don't do this. I
tried to help.

Olivia pushes the door and holds it open.

OUTSIDE IN THE FOREST

Four flashlights swing directly toward the door. Olivia
squints and shields her eyes from the lights.

KAT
What the hell?

Kat runs to the door and flips the light switch. Flood lights
illuminate the exterior.

Reveal:

Four harvesters are holding the flashlights, and even more accompany them. They RUSH TOWARD THE DOOR.

Olivia slams the door shut and engages the lock.

She and Kat hold a wide-eyed, short breathed, shaky stare.

KAT (CONT'D)
They found us.

INT. MAIN GARAGE (SILO 6)

The hall is buzzing. Men and women pushing Pallet jacks and dollies whip past each other. Everyone is moving.

AT ELLIS' WORK STATION

Ellis is working on the bed of Deji's speeder. He looks up at a FRESH COMMOTION entering the garage.

People begin pouring through the garage entrances, everyone panicking and running at full speed.

Kat enters, trying to shout over the din.

KAT
Get into Big Max! Everyone on board, now!

ELLIS
What the hell's going on?

KAT
Harvesters at bay three. We have to go.

Ellis dismounts and begins tossing tools and materials into the speeder.

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GARAGE

Al, Deji and Doctor Silvi enter, pushing Beth in her bed.

Captain Steyer's ship enters the garage from the tunnel entrance, and flies above Big Max.

EXT. BAY 3 - SILO 6 - NIGHT

Harvesters watch GRENADIER HARVESTER fiddle with the man door. It backpedals with a detonator in hand - leaving a small block with an antenna against stuck to the handle.

The harvesters retreat. The door is engulfed in an EXPLOSION.
The smoke clears- the ragged door barely on its hinges.
Grenadier Harvester approaches, pushes it open, and enters.
The large bay door begins to slide open.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - NIGHT

The Red Robot leans against the speeder bike on an overlook
next to a mountain trail, basking in moonlight.

The flat desert landscape reaches out to the horizon, with
the outline of razorbacks spread across the border.

A dust storm brews in an inlet several miles away, covering
the mountain range underneath it.

The Red Robot looks at the screen on his arm - the dot
blinking directly in the middle.

A RED FLARE RISES from behind the mountain with a SCREECH.
The Red Robot watches, light washing over its face.

INT. BIG MAX LOADING BAY

Ellis drives Deji's speeder up and into the loading bay.

Deji and Al use straps to secure Beth's rolling bed to a
wall. Doctor Silvi is in the fetal position against the wall.

Ellis parks the speeder as Pamby enters from inside Big Max.

PAMBY
(to Ellis)
What else do we need?

Ellis hops out and heads back down the ramp.

ELLIS
Anything we can get!

Pamby glances at Beth. He and Deji make eye contact.

DEJI
I've got her, go!

Pamby runs down the ramp and out of sight. Al follows.

INT. BIG MAX CONTROL ROOM

Kat and Olivia enter the large cockpit area where several engineers sit in front of control panels.

KAT
Status?

PILOT 1
Ten ticks until turnover.

INT. MAIN GARAGE (SILO 6)

The giant doors in front of Big Max begin to GRIND OPEN. A desert dust storm pours in through the opening, quickly filling the garage with a brown blanket of dust.

EXT. BIG MAX (SILO 6) - REAR DOOR

Stragglers are still piling into Big Max.

Pamby, Ellis and Al are rifling through materials and equipment, dragging and carrying whatever they can.

Chief Micah appears on the ramp.

CHIEF MICAH
We gotta roll, boys!

He points to the far tunnel entrance:

TWO HARVESTER HUMVEES fly into the garage and screech to a halt. Harvesters rush toward them with weapons drawn.

GUNFIRE is exchanged as BIG MAX'S ENGINES come HUMMING to life.

Micah meets Ellis, grabbing him and pulling him inside.

INT. BIG MAX LOADING BAY

Pamby and Al enter as the door begins to rise.

Harvesters stream into the garage from the tunnel.

INT. CONTROL ROOM (BIG MAX)

Pilots watch in agony as the doors ahead grind open at an excruciatingly slow pace.

KAT

Go.

PILOT 1

I don't think we'll-

KAT & OLIVIA

(Unison)

Go!

INT. MAIN GARAGE

BIG MAX LURCHES FORWARD with surprising agility, barely scraping through the exit. Harvesters attempting to scale the sides of Big Max are scraped off by the doors.

The remaining harvesters move to chase, but are repelled by the dust storm that spills inside.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - NIGHT

Big Max bursts from the dust cloud, it's robust lights illuminating the surrounding desert. The RUMBLING of BIG MAX is the only blemish on the serene landscape.

INT. CONTROL ROOM (BIG MAX)

Pilots scan their control panels.

PILOT 2

Arrival shortly after dawn,
assuming smooth sailing.

KAT

Copy that.

She exits.

INT. BIG MAX LOADING BAY

Deji's speeder sits in the middle of the bay, where Pamby and Ellis work in the bed. Grease and sweat paint their skin.

Two power cells are laid flat in the bed, with numerous, thick cables creating a spaghetti bowl in the middle. A stack of tubes lays neatly on top.

Deji and Al approach, carrying a slim, eight foot missile.

DEJI
Smallest one we could find.

PAMBY
That's perfect.

DEJI
What else do you need?

Pamby leans against the speeder, exhausted, but upbeat.

PAMBY
A coil - Ellis has that stowed away
somewhere. Then we'll need an
altimeter from one of your kites,
and a 'chute if there's one around.

ELLIS
Should be a few in storage. They
dropped in tons of vehicles when
development started.

DEJI
Got it.

Deji and Al depart.

ELLIS
Take five, Pamby. I'll gut this
thing.

Ellis goes to work disassembling the rocket.

Pamby nods and goes to Beth against the wall. He pulls up a
stool, clocking the bandages on her abdomen.

Blood has soaked through, leaving marks on the sheets.

She takes deep breaths to speak.

BETH
You're always happiest when you're
building something. I haven't seen
you this happy in a long time.

PAMBY
Deji tell you what Steyer said
about the Gulch?

BETH
Al did. I don't think Deji felt it
was his place.

Pamby nods, picking at grease stains on his hands.

PAMBY

I saw Val's records. I've been wrong about everything. How Deji and Al can even look at me is more than I can understand. And what I've put you through-

BETH

Don't worry about me, love. I made my choice to stand by you, and that part, I wouldn't change.

PAMBY

Did you think I was wrong?

BETH

I always thought you should have trusted Deji, but I know that anger can be blinding. In the end, I love you, and I don't give up on people that I love.

Pamby gives her a kiss on the cheek.

BETH (CONT'D)

Send our boys my way when you're done. Don't take this to mean anything more than it is, but I think I'd like to see the sunrise.

EXT. BIG MAX (UPPER DECK) - MORNING

Light is barely peeking over the horizon. The glow fills Kat's face, her hair tossed by the wind as she stands at the railing.

OLIVIA (O.C.)

You gonna jump?

Kat cracks a smile as Olivia joins her.

KAT

Only if someone doesn't push me, first.

A quiet beat as they look over the barren landscape.

KAT (CONT'D)

I wasn't here when they started development, but I'm sorry for how much you've lost. Your dad seemed like a good man.

OLIVIA

In wartime he was a shell of himself. Not a soldier in the slightest. But as a father, back before all of this... I just wish I could have told him how wonderful he was one last time.

The door from below deck opens. Al emerges with Beth in his arms. Deji follows with a chair and a blanket.

BETH

Mind if I join you?

OLIVIA

I'd like nothing more.

Deji puts the chair next to Kat and Olivia. Al softly places Beth in the chair, who sucks her teeth in pain. Deji covers her with the blanket, and hands her a radio.

DEJI

You need anything, you call me.

Beth offers a tired smile, putting her hand on Deji's cheek.

BETH

This isn't the last you've heard from me.

Deji gives her a kiss on the head and turns to Olivia.

DEJI

They're ready for you.

Olivia nods. Deji and Al depart.

Beth clutches the blanket and looks over the landscape, the glow of sunlight filling her face.

BETH

What a sight. If I'd known all of the rights and wrongs in my time would lead me to this, I'd have had a lot fewer second thoughts.

KAT

A life without regrets sounds lovely.

BETH

Oh, my dear, life goes on, but only if you let it. Regrets are simply a part of living.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

It's the weight of carrying them with you that keeps your feet from moving. Letting it all go, that's the puzzle.

KAT

One you've solved?

BETH

No. But I certainly hope to.

The trio watch the desert in silence.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

Chief Micah enters, peering out the front window.

The white dome of Silo 3 is barely visible in the distance.

Micah takes a deep, calming breath while putting on a headset.

INT. LOADING BAY (BIG MAX)

The loading bay is littered with scrap parts and tools. The bed of the speeder has a metal cover over the previously visible cables, with a cylinder sticking up in the middle.

A giant duffel bag - the parachute - is strapped through the frame and onto the stop of the speeder.

Pamby, Al, and Deji stand around the speeder/EMP. Olivia is in the driver's seat listening intently to Pamby as he hands her a detonator with two buttons and a switch.

PAMBY

Your parachute'll pop automatically at altitude. When you hit the ground, get clear, flip the switch, wait fifteen seconds, then hit both buttons at the same time.

Kat enters and comes beside the speeder, handing Olivia a blue smoke grenade.

KAT

When it's done, stay under open sky. Pop the smoke and we'll get as close as we can.

OLIVIA

Let's get this thing done.

Kat nods and addresses everyone.

KAT
Micah will be in the control room,
Ellis in the engine bay. I'll be up
top with a radio and anyone who can
fire a weapon. Good luck, everyone.

The group disperses.

Deji turns to Al, handing him a human-sized parachute bag. He winces as he signs with his arm still in a sling.

DEJI
*You should not be the one to go.
The EMP will fry you.*

AL
*I will wait at the surface and drop
in after detonation. You are the
only one that gets to risk your
life?*

DEJI
Just be careful, alright?

AL
You will be here when I get back?

DEJI
See you then.

Al puts the backpack on and climbs onto the speeder.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - MORNING

Big Max rumbles toward the giant dome -- it's white, skeletal structure coming into focus. At roughly the size of a football stadium, Big Max pales in comparison.

EXT. UPPER DECK - BIG MAX

Kat enters the upper deck with an armed crowd behind her. Deji breaks from the group and goes to Beth with a shotgun in hand. Beth is ghostly pale.

DEJI
Just as you ordered.

Deji hands Beth the shotgun and pulls a box of shells from his pocket.

BETH
What a dear you are.

With the blanket removed, Deji clocks the small puddle of blood dropping below the chair.

DEJI
I'll find the doctor.

Beth grabs his arm.

BETH
If there was anything to be done,
he'd have done it already.

AT THE REAR OF BIG MAX

The ramp drops. Olivia's speeder glides out the back and onto the desert floor. Olivia drives with Al crouched on the back.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Chief Micah stands at the helm.

CHIEF MICAH
Prepare to fire.

EXT. UPPER DECK (REAR) - DAY

A circular hatch in the deck, about twenty feet in diameter, twists open. A metal arm rotates out of the deck with a missile loaded on top.

AT THE FRONT OF THE UPPER DECK

The armed survivors form a crowd at the front railing of the upper deck. Kat wades through and takes her place at the bow, donning a headset.

THE MISSILE at the rear TAKES OFF from the mechanical arm.

EXT. SILO 3 - SAME TIME

The missile streaks through the air and EXPLODES against the dome, immediately fracturing the membrane. The structure slowly collapses into the abyss.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK

The crowd erupts. Kat watches OLIVIA'S SPEEDER fly in front of Big Max down below.

A FLARE flies into the sky from the NORTH.

ANOTHER FLARE from the SOUTH.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - DAY

Doors in the ground slide open around the desert floor, revealing more of the freight ramps seen during Olivia's escape.

In the blink of an eye there are a plethora of humvees and speeder bikes converging on Olivia and the speeder.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK

Kat watches speeders move past Big Max, while others pull up to the side, their passengers attempting to scale the rig.

KAT
(into her headset)
Prepare for contact!
Keep them off Olivia!

INSIDE OLIVIA'S SPEEDER

Olivia grits her teeth as the harvesters on speeder bikes close in on either side. A humvee ahead is driving directly for her in a deadly game of chicken.

OUTSIDE OLIVIA'S SPEEDER

A missile flies overhead and OBLITERATES the humvee. Al ducks as they speed through the fire ball.

A harvester bike inches closer to the side of the speeder.

Al LEAPS ONTO THE BIKE, dispatching and dumping the rider. He takes control and pulls in front of Olivia, giving her a thumbs up.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK

Soldiers shoot downward at the scaling harvesters.

Kat looks ahead. The dome is only a few miles away.

KAT
(into her headset)
Chief, we can't go any closer! Keep
us moving!

OUTSIDE OLIVIA'S SPEEDER

Al drops behind Olivia on his speeder bike and shoots the gunner off of a humvee with his pistol.

Something ON THE RIGHT catches his eye...

The Red Robot is streaking straight toward Olivia on it's speeder bike. It stands on the seat, ready to pounce.

RED ROBOT POV:

Numbers and words scramble across the edges of the HUD View. A circle ZOOMS IN on the back of the speeder. In the corner of the screen one word blinks: DISRUPT

Al punches the throttle and swerves around Olivia. He stands on the seat, readying to jump.

The Red Robot DIVES toward Olivia's speeder...

Al GOES AIRBORNE, barely LATCHING ONTO THE RED ROBOT'S ANKLE as the speeder bikes collide in a BALL OF FLAME beneath them.

The pair skip across the desert floor in a tangled mess. Al's backpack rips from his body, landing near the edge of silo 3.

INSIDE OLIVIA'S SPEEDER

Olivia watches the edge of the gaping hole where the dome once stood.

Her eyes are saucers as she FLIES OFF THE EDGE, for a moment, weightless in her seat.

Tunk -- THE PARACHUTE pops open. The speeder floats gracefully downward.

AT THE EDGE OF THE SILO

Al and the Red Robot skid to a stop. They both jump to their feet, ready to fight.

The Red Robot sees THE PARACHUTE as it drops out of sight. It makes a move toward the abyss.

Al tackles it away from the edge. The Red Robot pummels him with powerful blows, eventually throwing him away.

Al skids to a stop between the Red Robot and the silo edge.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK OF BIG MAX

Pamby and Deji flank Beth at the railing. They look down to see HARVESTER VEHICLES swarming toward Big Max from all directions.

Deji rips the sling from his arm and brandishes a rifle. Beth RACKS her shotgun and stands, leaning against the rail. Pamby checks his rifle.

Kat runs past, yelling to the troops.

KAT

Keep them away from the wheels!
Focus fire on closer targets! No
rockets until I give the word!

INT. SILO 3 - DAY

Olivia's speeder hits the ground, nearly tipping over on the debris of the dome. Olivia forces her door open and looks around.

Many harvester body parts stick out of the rubble.

LIVING HARVESTERS are scrambling toward her only a few hundred yards away.

She drops behind a piece of a steel beam a few yards away from the speeder -- the detonator in hand.

She flips the switch and whispers a cadence to herself.

OLIVIA

One potato, two potato, three
potato...

EXT. SILO 3 - UPPER EDGE - DAY

Al and the Red Robot are locked in hand to hand combat in a blur of motion, both swiping at each other with large knives.

The Red Robot catches Al with a leg sweep, sending him to his back and jumping on top of him.

The Red Robot looks down. Al's feet have found its abdomen.

Al kicks, sending the robot high overhead and into the abyss.

INSIDE THE ABYSS

Flaps open on the Red Robot's arms and legs as it falls. It lands in a soft crouch fifty yards from the speeder.

BEHIND THE STEEL BEAM

Olivia's eyes are glazed over as she counts.

OLIVIA
Eleven potato... twelve potato...

FLASHBACK: CLOSE ON:

YOUNG BENSON (30s), has his face covered with his hands.

YOUNG BENSON
... Thirteen potato, fourteen
potato, fifteen!

His hands drop. His face is flawless in Olivia's memory.

YOUNG BENSON (CONT'D)
Ready or not, here I come!

Olivia MASHES the detonator.

The Red Robot makes a DESPERATE DIVE toward the speeder - but GOES LIMP midair. Its eyes POP into sparks. It lies motionless against the EMP.

THROUGHOUT THE SILO

The green power cells around the pillars glow brighter... and brighter... and brighter...

EXPLOSIONS begin on the bottom of the power cell stacks, moving upward in a wave. The columns crumble.

EXT. SILO 3 - UPPER EDGE - DAY

Al scoops his backpack from the ground and takes off toward the edge. The GROUND SHAKES.

He takes a RUNNING DIVE over the edge just as the ground falls from beneath him.

BACK INSIDE SILO 3

Olivia watches the pillars fall as the power surge continues, the power cells exploding more and more rapidly as it moves through the underground city.

BEHIND HER, Al drifts to the ground, hanging from his parachute.

He clambers over the steel beam behind Olivia. She spins around, relieved at the sight of him.

OLIVIA

Oh, hey.

Al waves.

EXT. UPPER DECK - DAY

Harvesters are beginning to engulf the lower portion of the rig, many nearly making it onto the ladders.

Kat looks into the distance, seeing the collapsing ground move rapidly toward Big Max.

Big Max makes a sudden turn away from the crumbling earth.

Kat sees MOVEMENT AHEAD.

A FEW MILES AHEAD OF BIG MAX

A portion of desert floor the size of a football field begins to crack, being pushed up from underneath.

REVEAL:

A gigantic creature with six legs and two tails, at least 15 stories tall and 75 yards long, claws its way out of the desert. It's dark pink skin shines in the bright sunlight.

A single, thick, curved horn protrudes from its forehead. Long scratch marks run the length of the horn.

The monster observes the desert, its torso expanding and contracting with heavy breaths. It's small, foggy eyes follow Big Max across the landscape.

The beast takes a slow step in chase, then another. The several miles between the monster and Big Max seem minuscule.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - DAY

A missile flies toward the beast, smashing into its face. It runs through the explosion, its thick skin unblemished.

BACK IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF BIG MAX

Jaws hit the floor.

CHIEF MICAH
Hit it with something bigger!

PILOT 1
That was the biggest we've got!

ON THE UPPER DECK

Harvesters are barely being held at bay as they flood the ladders.

Beth, Deji and Pamby stop firing to stare in awe at the beast in the distance. Beth leans heavily on the railing, but collapses back into her chair.

Pamby and Deji kneel to her, seeing that her entire side and leg are soaked in blood.

PAMBY
You're in a bad way, hun.

Beth winces and speaks through labored breaths.

BETH
Get me into the ship. I'm not ready
to go just yet.

DEJI
Took you long enough to ask.

The pair lift her from the chair and carry her across the chaotic upper deck, toward Steyer's ship.

BETH
Let me fly, please.

PAMBY
Not a chance in hell.

INT. STEYER'S SPACECRAFT

They help her slide into the passenger's seat. Pamby closes the door.

OUTSIDE STEYER'S SPACECRAFT

Pamby turns to face Deji.

PAMBY

I wish I had more time to-

Deji offers a handshake with a wink.

DEJI

We'll talk when you get back.

Pamby takes his hand, hesitating slightly before pulling him in for a hug.

PAMBY

You could come with us.

Deji sees a harvester begin to climb over the railing and shoots it behind Pamby.

DEJI

We'll catch up. Now get the hell out of here!

Deji runs to the railing and fights on.

Pamby hurries to the other side of the craft. He opens the door-

Beth has slid over into the pilot's seat, leaving a bloody trail across the cabin.

PAMBY

What are you doin'?

BETH

They need you here, my love.

Pamby's face drops. Tears fill his eyes.

PAMBY

No, no, you can't leave me. Let me go with you.

Tears roll down Beth's face.

BETH

It must be me. Tell Deji and Al
that I love them.

Pamby takes her face in his hands, and looks into her eyes.
Tears fall.

PAMBY

I don't want to live without you.

Beth wipes the tears from his cheeks and tries to grin
through trembling lips.

BETH

If you love me, you won't let my
life go to waste. And I won't let
you waste yours.

She pulls his face to hers. Tears mix as they kiss.

PAMBY

I love you so much.

BETH

I love you more than you can know.

Pamby closes the door. Beth signs through the window.

BETH (CONT'D)

Take care of our boys for me.

PAMBY

I promise.

The thrusters engage. Pamby holds a hand on the window as the
ship lifts off. He stumbles forward as the ship departs, his
hands grasping at air where the ship once was.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

I love you!

The ship rises steadily, gliding across the desert.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - DAY

The monster is picking up pace, shaking the ground with every
bound.

Big Max struggles to keep distance.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK

The din is almost unbearable in the chaos. Kat pushes people toward the doors. She pauses.

Big Max is slowing down.

KAT
(into her headset)
What's going on?

INT. CONTROL ROOM (BIG MAX)

The control room is dark. Chief and the pilots are frozen.

A tense, silent beat...

The lights flicker back on as control boards light up. The pilots get back to work.

Micah wipes his brow and presses his headset to his ear.

ELLIS (RADIO)
Diverting power to engines!

INT. ENGINE ROOM (BIG MAX)

Ellis is winded as he runs along a giant panel of levers.

He skids to a stop, pulling two levers down and pushing one up. He stumbles backward as Big Max jolts forward.

INT. STEYER'S SPACECRAFT

Beth pushes the throttle, the desert flying below at a blinding speed. She wipes tears from her face.

INT. ENGINE ROOM (BIG MAX) - SAME TIME

Ellis collapses against the giant panel, exhausted.

POP!

He turns to see sparks flying from around the corner.

ELLIS
Come, on!

INT. CONTROL ROOM (BIG MAX)

The control boards go dark once more.

CHIEF MICAH
(into headset)
What's happening?

ELLIS (RADIO)
Working on it!

EXT. UPPER DECK - DAY

Kat and Deji battle the never-ending horde of climbing harvesters. The sheer Numbers are becoming overwhelming.

KAT
Everyone get inside!

Pamby comes to Deji's side, reloading his rifle.

DEJI
What the hell are you still doing
here?

The MONSTER'S ROAR shakes the nearly stagnant rig.

All turn to see the beast bearing down on them, only a very short, few miles away.

Ellis comes over the radio, choking on lump in his throat.

ELLIS (RADIO)
I'm, I'm sorry everybody. I need...
I'm so sorry...

INT. CONTROL ROOM (BIG MAX)

The pilots watch Chief Micah in the dark as he listens to his earpiece with a pained expression.

EXT. UPPER DECK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The crowd moves toward the door as harvesters jump the railing, piling onto the deck.

Deji, Pamby and Kat slay harvesters right and left, doing little to stop the onslaught.

IN THE DESERT

The monster bears down on Big Max. It takes leaping bounds as it opens its gaping mouth and launches into its FINAL POUNCE.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK

The creature's ENORMOUS JAWS have nearly ENGULFED the back of the rig. Pamby, Deji and Kat look up in awe - the hot breath of the beast pushing them backward.

IN FRONT OF BIG MAX

A SONIC BOOM rocks the desert as Steyer's ship streaks across the landscape with a white cloud in its wake.

The ship narrowly misses Big Max before RIPPING THROUGH THE BEAST and exploding against the ground in the distance behind it.

The monster CRASHES to the desert floor with a gaping hole running through its body.

BACK ON THE UPPER DECK

The boarded harvesters stop fighting and go almost completely motionless. Pamby, Deji and Kat step back, guns at the ready.

A long, tense beat...

The frozen harvesters suddenly panic and begin diving over the edge.

ON GROUND LEVEL

Harvesters plunge to their deaths from above. Humvees veer off, crashing into one another as harvies throw themselves from vehicles only to be run over by others.

EXT. SILO 3 - DAY

Al and Olivia watch from a hiding spot as harvesters run haphazardly, trying desperately to find holes to dive into.

Al stands.

Olivia watches as he walks into the open, harvesters rushing past, paying him no mind.

EXT. UPPER DECK - BIG MAX - DAY

Kat watches in awe as droves of harvies retreat toward the hole from where the monster came.

The collapsing earth has ceased a few hundred yards from Big Max. The smoking bowl of debris stretches across miles and miles of desert.

TRIUMPHANT CHEERS spring from the crowd as elation takes hold. Soldiers hug, high five and fire weapons into the air.

Pamby runs through them to the rear of the deck, his eyes fixed on the rear railing.

AT THE REAR OF THE DECK

Pamby comes to the railing and sees the felled monster, now in a puddle of its own putrid fluids.

Beyond the beast, a scorch mark stretches across the desert floor, littered with debris of Steyer's ship.

Pamby covers his face with his shaking hands.

Deji approaches and puts an arm around his shoulders.

AT THE FRONT OF THE DECK

Kat celebrates with the soldiers, but her smile fades when she turns to see the pair at the railing.

ELLIS (O.S.)
What the hell happened?

Ellis comes to her side.

KAT
Beth. I think Beth happened.

AT THE REAR OF THE DECK

Pamby and Deji stand together, heads hanging low.

EXT. BIG MAX - SILO 3 - NIGHT

Big Max is parked near the rim of the collapsed silo. A bonfire roars beside the rig as a makeshift band plays a jaunty tune on various instruments.

Ellis, Chief Micah and silo soldiers dance around the fire, swinging one another back and fourth without a care in the world. Smiles and laughter abound.

Pamby and Deji are geared-up and armed to the teeth as they walk past, toward the edge of the silo crater.

Deji hands Pamby a wrinkled envelope from his vest.

DEJI

Beth asked me to give it to you.
Said you wouldn't take it if she
tried to do it herself.

A faint smile crosses Pamby's lips as he tucks it away.

PAMBY

She'da been right.

AT THE EDGE OF THE SILO

Kat stands alone, looking into the dark abyss. Deji and Pamby come next to her.

DEJI

We're off to find our heroes. You
may not want to stand by yourself.
The android could still be out
there.

KAT

Wouldn't imagine you care what
happens to me at this point.

PAMBY

We'd better care. As long as this
ship is sailin', you're at the
helm.

Kat gives a nod.

PAMBY (CONT'D)

What're you gonna do with Silvi?

KAT

Nothing, probably. Accountability
is contagious, and I don't think
we'd survive that kind of pandemic.

A SCRATCHING comes from the darkness below. Deji and Pamby raise their rifles.

A metallic hand appears over the crest, then another. Al pulls himself up, reaches down, and pulls Olivia up and over the edge. Al sees them and waves.

Deji embraces Al with a smile while Kat does the same to Olivia.

DEJI
That was easy.

Pamby shakes their hands.

OLIVIA
The android is cooked, but the
harvesters, they're not all dead.

Kat puts her arm around Olivia's shoulders as they walk toward the bonfire.

KAT
I like the idea of keeping them
hiding in holes for a change.

Al, Deji and Pamby are left at the edge of the crater.

AL
How is Beth?

Pamby looks down and covers his trembling lips. Al taps him on the shoulder.

AL (CONT'D)
No more pain?

PAMBY
Right. No more pain.

They head toward the fire, arms around shoulders.

INT. BARRACKS (BIG MAX)

Pamby climbs onto his bunk and opens Beth's envelope, unfolding the letter inside. He digs a lighter from his pocket, flicks the starter, and reads by the small flame.

BETH (V.O.)
My dearest Pamby. If you're reading
this, then Deji has proven himself
a reliable postal carrier.

Pamby smiles, his eyes moving back and fourth as he reads on.

BEGIN MONTAGE

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A line of graves have been filled in, all with various markers. Onlookers leave miscellaneous tokens and flowers.

BETH (V.O.)
It also means that I've left you
earlier than we'd ever planned.

Olivia, Kat, Ellis, Deji, Al and Pamby stand in front of Beth's symbolic plot, which is adorned with flowers. Benson's is next to hers.

EXT. DESERT FLATS - DAY

The harvester monster's body is rotting in the daylight.

Boots approach the carcass. A ship with a 'DSA' badge stands next to the cadaver.

Men and women in lab coats inspect the creature.

BETH (V.O.)
Please know that you are stronger
than you think. Life will go on,
and you will climb the mountains
that rise up in front of you.

A larger ship lands behind the dead monster. The hatch opens. Troops stream out, led by an android almost identical to the Red Robot.

END MONTAGE

INT. BARRACKS (BIG MAX)

Pamby flips to the next page. A photo slides from the letter and falls into his lap. He picks it up and brings it close to the lighter.

BETH (V.O.)
As I write this letter, I've
realized that every fight, every
angry moment between us was wasted
time that I wish we had back.
Please, don't waste moments with
our boys. I wouldn't be at peace
leaving you with anyone else.

Pamby's misty eyes shine in the flame of the lighter. He goes back to the letter.

BETH (V.O.)

If there is something after this
life, I'll wait for you there.
Until then, I am, and will always
be, yours. With all my love, Beth.

He wipes the tears from his face and carefully folds the
letter and places it back in the envelope.

Deji steps in front of Pamby's bunk and bends down.

DEJI

Hey, they're playing games outside
and Al left me for Olivia, so... I
need a partner.

Pamby looks up - Deji sees his puffy, tear-stained eyes.

DEJI (CONT'D)

Oh - sorry. I can-

Pamby wipes his nose and swings his legs to the floor.

PAMBY

No no, someone's gotta teach these
young cats a lesson. Just gimme a
minute.

DEJI

See you out there.

Deji double-taps the bunk bed and departs.

Pamby puts the envelope on his pillow with the photo on top.
He takes one last look before following Deji.

CLOSE ON:

**The photo on Pamby's pillow - an old, battered picture of the
crew about ten years younger.**

**Pamby is standing arm-in-arm with Beth, who is shining in a
simple, elegant wedding gown. Deji, VAL (20s), and Al
surround them with their arms around each others' shoulders.**

They all wear radiant smiles. A family complete.

FADE OUT.