The Fires We Forge (Pilot) - Altered Generations

Ву

Steven C. Phillips

Original Characters and Concepts by Steven C. Phillips

Copyright 2016 SCP21 Studios Altered Geek Entertainment Steven C. Phillips 810-569-6172 contact@scp21studios.com contact@stevencphillips.net

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOF LEDGE - EVENING

A figure is standing on a ledge of a roof, where he's looking on the city. We see the sky and peaceful views of nature and the parks with people in them as families. Panning shot of various buildings, vehicles driving, people walking down the street. Slowly pulling upward towards the tall skyscrapers with a hero shot from behind followed voice over by MEGADRIVE.

MEGADRIVE (V.O)

What defines a city? Is it our people, our politicians, or our corporations? I like to think it's our hearts. Although it is a smaller part of the entire body, it is the major component which pumps the blood into the larger pieces of the human body. As much as how our citizens pump life into the cities in which they live. If just one of those valves go bad, we have a heart attack shattering our foundation and showing us how fragile life really is.

A police radio is on MegaDrive's person which is broadcasting in the background, gradually getting louder.

Radio SFX

OPERATOR (V.O)

...BraveJet Industries has been attacked. Suspect is in his late 60's entering the premises with a van of chemicals and explosives. A perimeter has been set but we can't get close enough without causing fatalities. Send in backup. Police are unable to apprehend the suspect. He is firing blue energy of some sort from his rifle. Pursue with extreme caution. Repeat suspect is armed and dangerous.

MEGADRIVE

When a city has one of those Earth shattering moments, it rocks our culture to it's core. Especially (MORE)

MEGADRIVE (cont'd) when the unknown can be as bad as one bad valve. But when you know what you're fighting to prevent, well then things get that much more interesting.

MegaDrive shuts off his radio, activates his jetpack and leaps from the building rooftop, flying off towards the emergency.

Fade to Black

ACT I

One Week Earlier

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - PODCAST RECORDING STUDIO

CRAIG STEVENS is sitting at his desk recording one of his weekly podcasts.

CRAIG

...I hope you enjoyed this episode on my top ten revolutionary tech devices. Next week we'll be talking about corporate lies. Yeah I know it's common but I think we'll have some great things to discuss next week. Be sure to tune into the next show coming up which is The Pull Bag, our comic discussion podcast.

As always be sure to check back into Altered Geek Unleashed! So until next time, Get Altered, Get Geeky, with the Altered Geeks. See you next time!

Craig turns off the equipment and his producer DENIELLE BOLLINGER is in the other room giving him the thumbs up as he turns around. Craig exits the studio and goes towards Denielle.

CRAIG (cont'd)

So how was it?

DENIELLE

It seemed to go fairly well. Might want to ease up on the news topics though. People gravitate to you for your commentary on pop culture and tech not hard hitting news.

CRAIG

I like to think I can have the luxury of talking whatever in small doses from week to week. Besides I can't filter out what I feel on the topics.

DENIELLE

Whatever... So what's the plan now? A few of us will be getting out at six, so want to get meet with us for drinks?

That sounds great actually. I am heading out for some more research for the next week's show but I have to stop by my office first.

Craig is putting up paperwork and checking his mail basket while Denielle is prepping the studio for the next batch of shows.

DENIELLE

Well don't work too hard. You know you always miss out when you get too engrossed into whatever it is you're up to.

CRAIG

(slight laugh)

Ha ha ha, yeah I know. I will be there, trust me.

DENIELLE

Okay, catch you tonight.

Craig heads out down to his office.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - CRAIG'S OFFICE

Craig sits down and rests into his couch turning the television on.

CRAIG

(muttering, speaking to himself)

Man I need some rest. I have to make sure I get outta here tonight. Denielle's right, I need to find time to relax.

Television SFX turning on and flipping channels while Craig checks and reads some mail. A news broadcaster named CLARK WALTERS is on the screen.

CLARK

Today we have suffered a great loss as BraveJet Corporations founder and CEO JACK MASTERS was killed. Police suspect it was foul play. BraveJet was responsible for creating a new type of renewable energy called ZerCellium Crystals. Unfortunately at this time we don't (MORE)

CLARK (cont'd)

have any information on the situation beyond that. Stay tuned for more on that story.

Craig stopped what he was doing looking on in shock.

CRAIG

What the hell is wrong with this world? Seriously why is it this messed up? I wonder who's behind this? That'd make an interesting story for the show.

CLARK

The Antares Corporation is the only company left out of the recent robberies of the rare element. Their CEO DEREK ANTARES could not be reached for comment on the situation.

Craig turned the television off and heads to his desk.

CRAIG

Something about the Antares Corporation always seems to be flooding the news in recent weeks.

He pulls up articles on the internet all pertaining to Antares and assassinations or bombings.

CRAIG (cont'd)

There seems to be something tied to almost every event with the Antares and any disagreements that they have with their CEO, Derek Antares. The problem seems to disappear. Hmm might be something worth checking into.

Craig reaches for his desk phone and dials his secretary LAUREN BURNHAM.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Hey Lauren, do you think you can do some digging on the Antares Corporation?

LAUREN (O.S)

Hey Craig, yeah I think I can take care of that. What do you need?

I am sending you an email right now with the details I'm looking for. Feel free to use my credentials to get it if you need to.

Lauren's on the phone with Craig looking at the files.

LAUREN

Okay Craig, right on it. Anything else you need?

CRAIG (O.S)

No, I don't think so. I believe that will be all, thanks.

Craig hangs up the phone and Lauren enters the room to talk to Craig more.

LAUREN

Hey Craig I forgot to mention to you that it's almost time for you to head out with Denielle and the others.

CRAIG

Oh right. Thanks I almost forgot!

Lauren exits while Craig closes down his computer and sits down to rest his eyes after a long day.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - CRAIG'S OFFICE

Over an hour later an alarm goes off alerting Craig to wake up.

ALARM SFX

CRAIG

Ah damn.

He looks down at his watch and then the clock.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Thought I was just getting a few minutes of rest. Better head out, Denielle's gonna give me hell for this.

EXT. THE NIGHTGATE LOUNGE

Craig arrives in the parking lot still contemplating the events of the day. Denielle is waiting by her car with Lauren, DAVID MICHAELS and JESSICA BURNHAM.

DENIELLE

(irritated smirk)

You're late...again. Why do I even try?

CRAIG

I was...

DENIELLE

Seriously Craig, I'm going to start telling you an hour earlier just so when you show up you're on time!

CRAIG

Again sorry, I've had a rough evening.

DENIELLE

Well now that you're here we can go in and relax.

A HOMELESS MAN is sitting in the parking lot besides the restaurant holding a which reads "Anything Helps".

CRAIG

You guys go on a head and I'll catch you inside, I have to grab something.

The others head into the 80's styled lounge and Craig heads to the homeless man to give him some spare change and a bag of chips he had in his car.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Here you are my friend. I hope this helps you out. I try to keep extra food and cash in my car. Never know when someone will need it.

HOMELESS MAN

Thank you kind sir. Your generosity will not be forgotten.

CRAIG

No worries my friend. I hope you have a good and safe night!

Craig heads into the lounge and leaves the Homeless man to his food.

HOMELESS MAN

Oh I will thank you...

He shifts in the light and disappears into the shadows.

INT. THE NIGHTGATE LOUNGE

Craig joins the others in the back of the lounge to talk and eat.

DENIELLE

(smiling)

About time. What were you doing?

CRAIG

Sorry there was a homeless guy outside and I was giving him some food and spare change.

DENIELLE

Ah okay, that's nice of you. So what do you guys want to do?

CRAIG

I was thinking we could brainstorm new content I'd like to try. That and I was thinking we could talk about what is brewing at the Antares Corporation.

LAUREN

Speaking of the Antares, I was having a hard time finding any dirt on them. It was very well hidden. I did find some mysterious payments to pocket areas of their West facility and shipments of ZerCellium going there. That and some crazy military weaponry.

JESSICA

You guys need to be careful of them. That company is bad news. Seems like anything that company is associated with has issues. Too much snooping can't be good. I may not be much in the loop to what you guys are doing but I really don't want to hear anymore of it. Let's relax try to relax.

DAVID

Yeah I second that. So what do you guys think about adding some game shows to the network? Or shows based on less of the pop culture and more tech and science elements?

CRATG

I think that maybe a good idea. Possibly we could try to obtain some or syndicate them if we don't get the content we're looking for.

DENIELLE

What we need is a sort of public icon for the company that isn't any of us. Something that shows we can have fun and be important.

CRAIG

We'll get on that. Besides that let's shelve the rest of this until tomorrow.

LAUREN

You might want to shelve this for the next few days. I know in the next few days you have a conference panel you're hosting. So that might be something which you'll want to be ready for.

CRAIG

Shoot! I forgot about that. Good call. I should go and work on that. Thanks for the time out. I'm sorry I couldn't stay out longer but I need to prepare.

Craig leaves the Lounge and heads back to do research while the others remain behind to enjoy their time out.

DENIELLE

I know I work a lot but Craig needs to relax. He's ALWAYS working anymore. I wish I could get him to open up more to me. He's always so consumed with his projects.

DAVID

(smiling)

Oh we know.

DENIELLE

(embarrassed)

Is it that obvious?

DAVID

(chuckles)

It is very obvious. Just so you know, Craig is a person who has to be hit with a blunt object to get the point. Subtlety is not in his wheelhouse.

LAUREN

You two should just try going out and get him away from all of this for a bit.

JESSICA

It's not like you don't have enough people who couldn't give him a mini vacation. He maybe the head of the company but he doesn't need to oversee it all, all the time. I'd be willing to help out from time to time.

DENIELLE

That would be great guys. Thanks for the advice, I'll have to take you up on it to get him to notice me.

DAVID

Just be yourself, he loves that he just is very analytical at times in his thought process. Give him a new project to focus on with you if you catch my drift.

They all laugh and continue eating as the night rolls onward.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - CRAIG'S OFFICE

Craig sits in his office twiddling a pen on his desk while reading the reports Lauren had found.

CRAIG

(talking to himself)

I just can't put my finger on it. But there is something with Derek Antares. He's hiding more than just

(MORE)

CRAIG (cont'd)

the fact he is stealing the ZerCellium crystals. The files seem locked up tight.

There was a knock on his door and Denielle entered the room.

DENIELLE

Hey Craig, can we talk?

Craig didn't look up from his screen.

CRAIG

Yeah what's going on?

DENIELLE

Well I...

Craig turns around but Denielle is interrupted by the intercom system.

LAUREN (V.O)

Craig you have someone who needs to meet with you.

CRAIG

Send them in.

DENIELLE

I'm sorry I'll come back in a bit.

CRAIG

Are you sure?

DENIELLE

Yeah we can always go to dinner later after your conference.

CRAIG

Okay see you later then.

Denielle leaves and the woman walks in. Craig stands up to greet the woman.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Hello, I'm Craig and you are?

ALANA KLATZKY

My name is ALANA KLATZKY. I used to work for the BlackStar Corporation but after the CEO was killed a few months back, I quit to find a different line of work.

Alana what were you wanting to meet with me about and why me?

ALANA

My sources say you're a decent person who isn't prone to corporate payoff. I figured I could trust you with this information.

CRAIG

What is it that we're dealing with?

ALANA

As I said I used to work for BlackStar. However I was head of corporate espionage and security.

CRAIG

You're a corporate spy.

ALANA

WAS a corporate spy. That being said I had been doing research on the Antares and found that they are not all they pretend to be. The Antares have a plan to take over the city by brute force using scare tactics. They want to own everything.

CRAIG

Do you mind if I use this for my reports? I want to nail these bastards to the wall with their own rope.

ALANA

Fine by me, but let me warn you that you need to watch your back. Anyone who goes up against them are either paid off or silenced in other ways.

CRAIG

I'm not worried. I've dealt with companies before.

ALANA

This is different. I was there the night my CEO was killed. They had some strange human animal hybrid attack him. It was made to look

(MORE)

ALANA (cont'd)

like an animal attack but he wasn't attacked by an animal but by a female.

She walks around the room and paces while wondering what she should say next.

ALANA (cont'd)

If you go through with this, you're going to need protection or to disappear.

CRAIG

I should be fine.

ALANA

We'll meet again but until then stay safe Craig. I'd hate to see a good guy like you get taken to the cleaners by those dirt bags.

CRAIG

Thanks Alana and it was nice to meet you. Thank you for the intel and stay safe as well.

Alana left Craig's office. He walked over to his window and peered into the city.

INT. ANTARES CORPORATION - DEREK ANTARES' OFFICE

Derek Antares sits at his desk as the phone rings.

PHONE SFX

DEREK

What do you have?

MAN #1

Sir, there seems to have been some inquiry into the CEO's of the BraveJet and BlackStar corporation murders.

DEREK

Ahh yes, this could be problematic then.

MAN #1

Yes it could be. If we're to keep going with my work then I'll need (MORE)

MAN #1 (cont'd)
more ZerCellium. With the public
digging into the murders you could
be looking at issues on your end
getting more of the element.

DEREK

Don't worry yourself PROFESSOR. I will deal with this. You'll have more than enough of your crystals to conduct your experiments.

PROFESSOR

Very well, good bye Derek.

The phone hangs up and Derek is left peering into his monitor as he sees the face of Craig Stevens next to stolen data he is utilizing.

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - LOUNGE

Lauren walks up to Craig as he enters the lounge.

LAUREN

(chipper)

Good morning Craig!

CRAIG

Good morning Lauren. How's it going today?

LAUREN

It's going fairly well. When I came in I received a call from a Derek Antares. He'd like to have a meeting with you this afternoon.

CRAIG

Oh he does? Interesting. Didn't take him long. Should be a fun meeting.

LAUREN

So what did you want me to tell him?

CRAIG

Go ahead and tell me this afternoon is fine. I look forward to the meeting.

Craig heads into the studio and sees Denielle hosting a show.

DENIELLE

As those of you know I used to be overweight and had struggled with issues for years. If you have anything you'd like to talk about feel free to let me know. So catch you next week when we'll discuss, Food, the good the bad and the ugly. This has been Fit, Ready, Go.

Denielle signs off and joins Craig outside the booth.

CRAIG

How's the show? Seems interesting.

DENIELLE

I like people and their welfare. I can't help it. Besides that I think my story is relatable.

CRAIG

That it is.

Craig hesitates and waits a moment.

DENIELLE

So what's up?

CRAIG

I have a meeting with Derek Antares later.

DENIELLE

You shouldn't go through with this. My hyper sense is tingling ha ha.

CRAIG

I know I shouldn't but I just have to know.

DENIELLE

I know you do... Anything else?

CRAIG

I was wondering if you'd like to have dinner with me this weekend?

DENIELLE

What brought this up?

CRAIG

Well I can tell you like me and I like you as well. I have always liked you. I just didn't know how to tell you.

DENIELLE

David told you didn't he?

CRAIG

(chuckles)

Yes he did. I always knew but just am so introverted at times it's hard to say anything. That and getting wrapped up in my work I lose track of life.

DENIELLE

You need a vacation.

CRAIG

Yeah maybe I do.

DENIELLE

Sounds good though. On the dinner. I look forward to it. Be safe Craig, I don't know what I'd do if something happened to you.

CRAIG

I look forward to it too and I'll be careful. See you later.

Denielle leaves and Craig heads out to the street and catches a cab.

EXT. ANTARES CORPORATION

The taxi pulls up and Craig climbs out. He adjusts his clothing and stares at the building as he approaches.

CRAIG

Wow is that building huge or what? It has to be at least forty stories high! I can't imagine such a large building for one company.

He starts walking towards the revolving doors and enters the building.

INT. ANTARES CORPORATION

CRAIG

(muttered under his breath)
It's odd that DEREK ANTARES wanted
to meet with me but should be a
great experience nevertheless.

He approaches the receptionist's desk.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Hello, I'm here for my one o'clock appointment with Derek Antares.

RECEPTIONIST

Craig Stevens?

Yes, that's me.

RECEPTIONIST

Right this way sir.He'll meet you in his "War Room" up the hall and to the right.

CRAIG

HARPER? That's an interesting name.

HARPER

Yes it was my grandmother's name. Every few generations it seems to resurface.

CRAIG

That's cool. Legacy is important.

HARPER

That it is. Well Mister Antares will meet you in his "War Room" up the hall and to the right.

CRAIG

Thank you Harper for the directions.

HARPER

My pleasure sir.

INT. ANTARES CORPORATION - "WAR ROOM" (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Craig heads towards the room, enters and sits down waiting for Derek to arrive.

DEREK

(reaching forward to shake
hands)

You must be Craig. Hello, I'm Derek. Pleased to meet you. I hope you'll excuse the short notice on the appointment, but I think you'll enjoy this opportunity I have in mind for you.

CRAIG

I am interested in hearing your proposition but I have to admit, I'm unsure what help I can be to your cause. I run a geek media network not a news network towards fuel, energy and science.

DEREK

Ahh but that's where the proposition comes in. I'd like to expand your horizons as it were. Your company coupled with mine would allow for us to use each others...benefits to our own end. I could promote my endeavors with your highly successful network, and in turn your company could have untapped potential to grow.

CRAIG

So what you're telling me is in order to gain these funds, and growth opportunities I have to give up on my regular programming and gear it towards yours.

DEREK

A portion of it would have to significantly feature my company's specialties but you could still do your own programming.

CRAIG

How much are we talking about here?

DEREK

More than you can imagine, ha ha. All it would cost you is skewing your view towards my ends and you would own your market as well as others. I'd make you a god to the public. People love you, they'd follow you to the ends of the Earth.

CRAIG

That's not why I do this. I'm sorry I cannot give up my honest moral compass to further even my own company. I appreciate the generous offer, but I'm going to have to pass.

DEREK

Brave words Craig. Money is power and you don't have as much to toy with as I do. Eventually I'll get my way. One way...or another.

Is that a threat?

DEREK

I prefer to look at it as a certainty.

(leans in close)

I ALWAYS get what I want.

CRAIG

We're done here. Have a good life Derek. I hope this comes back to haunt you.

Craig leaves the "War Room" and the Antares Corporation while Derek watches out of a window to the street.

DEREK

(referencing Craig's last
statement)

Truer words have never been spoken.

He turns and leaves his office.

INT. THE NIGHTGATE LOUNGE

Craig, Denielle, Lauren, Alana, David, Jessica all meet at the Lounge to discuss the meeting.

ALANA

So what exactly happened?

CRAIG

Antares offered to BUY Altered Geek Media and wanted to give me unlimited funds for whatever...

DENIELLE

What's the catch?

CRAIG

I have to cover all Antares related material, and give them better light in the media. Of course OWNED by him.

LAUREN

So what did you say?

CRAIG

I said NO of course.

DAVID

What did he say to that?

CRAIG

More or less that he always gets what he wants.

ATIANA

You need to watch out. How's your security?

CRAIG

Seriously, I'm fine. My security is fine.

JESSICA

This guy sounds like a creep.

CRAIG

Oh he is. A really old guy in his late 60's or early 70's and telling me with his liver spotted face that he is gonna own me. Yeah I think not.

DAVID

So what are you going to do Craig? I should go with you to that conference tomorrow.

ALANA

I agree. This is serious if he said that.

CRAIG

Just in case I'm placing you
Denielle in charge of the company
should something bad befall me. I
have plenty of pre-recorded content
to play until we figure out Antares
game. That way after the conference
I can lay low for a bit.

JESSICA

I'd skip the conference.

CRAIG

Not going to happen. I am a man of my word.

DENIELLE

Please be careful.

I plan to be careful. I just hope nothing happens. In any case we should watch Antares.

ALANA

I can do it but will need some capital to pay my way.

CRAIG

Done. Anything else because I need some rest before we get that conference tomorrow.

DAVID

No I think we're good bro. Take it easy.

Craig leaves the lounge and the others leave a little at a time concerned for Craig.

EXT. GEEK MEDIA EXPO CENTER

Fans lining up as far as the eye can see surrounding the convention center, Craig's cab pulling up, him entering the side of the building and people flooding inside.

INT. GEEK MEDIA EXPO CENTER - ALPHA ROOM

Hundreds of people gathered in Alpha Room. Loud vocal tones can be heard.

Clark approaches the microphone looking onward at the fans.

CLARK

(excitedly)

First let me start with I am thankful to be here today presenting here at the Geek Media Expo. Our first guest whom I'm fairly certain you all know is a leader in media and doesn't sugar coat anything. He's not even thirty yet and he's created the largest independent media organization in the world. I would like to draw attention to the following individual without whom we would not have this great event. Please give a warm welcome to Craig Stevens!

Craig moves forward onto the stage and reaches towards Clark for a handshake.

CRAIG

I'd like to Thank you Clark for the kind introductions. Although to be honest, it was all of you who allowed for me to grow this organization over the past few years into what it is today. I'm nothing without the love and admiration of my friends out there.

CLARK

Today we will bestow upon you the GME Humanitarian Award for Best authoritative figure from a Media Organization.

Clark hands the award to Craig as he looks over the award. It is shiny and large.

CRAIG

(smiling)

I appreciate this gesture that you all have so kindly bestowed upon me. It's an honor to be there for you as much as you have been for me over the years. Although I receive this award it truly speaks to me that so many of you are touched by what I represent and how I display it.

He looks around soaking it all in nervously and returns to his thoughts.

CRAIG (cont'd)

I maybe a geek and television personality but something has caught my attention lately and I'm sorry to dive into a live show here but I still feel strong about this.

CLARK

No feel free to go ahead we would love to hear a live show from you. Wouldn't we folks?

The crowd cheers and yells for Craig. He turns and thanks Clark as he approaches the microphone and begins.

I watch the news, much like all of you and I see how horrible our society has become. Corporations bludgeoning each other over elements or materials, killing over disagreements or just simply due to differences in management. The subject matter of corporate transparency is what bothers me. I mention it from time to time in my show, but too many times our world is plagued by companies more full of themselves than with the well being of you or I.

He pauses deciding whether or not to spill on the Antares deal. All eyes are quiet and on Craig.

CRAIG (cont'd)

One particular incident which has caught my attention is that of the recent murder of the BraveJet CEO, Jack Masters. He was beloved by his peers and the public for his honesty and caring for the well being of his employees and customers. So I did some digging on the Antares Corporation. The same one who seems to be the one gaining all of the attention whenever a CEO goes down and their parent company is ailing. My theory is that with each death, Antares has something to gain from them. I think it is premeditated. So, I am plan to donate my time and money into exposing the corruptness of the Antares Corporation all the while still giving you the great content we've been known for over past decade. Thank you and I look forward to meeting you all soon after the ceremony!

CLARK

Thank you again to Craig for those inspiring words and drive! Give him another round of applause! Next up for the award of...

The sound of Clark was almost inaudible by the crowed as Craig leaves waving to the them as he goes outside to gather his thoughts.

EXT. GEEK MEDIA EXPO CENTER - BACKSTAGE BALCONY - DAY

Craig stand there getting his bearings on what has just transpired. David walks up next to Craig.

CRAIG

Well that was fun.

DAVID

Well you sure blew this thing wide open. I'd have waited.

CRAIG

I don't think it'd have mattered. The more people who know what I know the better off we'll all be. The Antares can't be trusted.

DAVID

I'm not doubting you bro but this is going to be deep for us to dig our way in and out of.

CRAIG

That or Antares will get looked into by the proper channels.

DAVID

Hard to say who all is in Derek Antares pockets these days. He's been around for the better part of a century and his company is the leader in military grade gear.

CRAIG

Time will tell my friend. Thanks for coming out with me. Means a lot.

DAVID

No problem. Still think you should have gotten Denielle to come with you. You need to move faster with her man. She really likes you.

CRAIG

(shyly)

I know. I asked her to dinner this weekend just the two of us.

DAVID

(jokingly)

I knew you had it in you. Or in her...

(smiling but irritated)
Seriously cut it out.

DAVID

Alright man I'll let you get some air and see you inside in a few okay?

CRAIG

Sounds good bro. Will catch up with you in a while.

David walks off and Craig is leaning into the balcony peering at his award.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Sure is a nice piece of metal here. Will have to look for a spot to put this when I get back to the office.

A SHROUDED FIGURE moves in close to steal the Award from Craig.

CRAIG (cont'd)

HEY! WHAT THE HELL!

SHROUDED FIGURE

(growling)

You have no idea what you've stirred up young man.

They begin to struggle before the Figure overpowers Craig and with FEROCITY. Recognition strikes Craig's face as the woman Alana described

CRAIG

IT IS YOU!

The Shrouded Figure is surprised to have been known and impales Craig in the chest with the trophy before THROWING his bleeding body over the fifteen foot balcony.

SHROUDED FIGURE

(whispers)

Well that's that.

She reaches into her pouch and pulls out a cell phone.

DIALING SFX

SHROUDED FIGURE (cont'd) (dialing phone)
It's done PROFESSOR GLACIER. He won't be bothering us anymore.

PROFESSOR GLACIER (V.O) (coldly)

Excellent LADY STONEHEART. Return to the Underbase for further instructions and debriefing. We have another matter to attend to.

LADY STONEHEART As you wish Professor.

Lady Stoneheart peers over the balcony seeing Craig gasping and races off before she can be discovered.

EXT. GEEK MEDIA EXPO CENTER / TRASH RECEPTORS - DAY

We see the bleeding out form of Craig Stevens on the ground besides a dumpster, losing conscientiousness, breathing his last breath.

END ACT II

ACT III

INT. ABANDONED DOJO

Craig starts to awaken from his thought of death.

CRAIG

(groggily and strained)
Wha...what happened? Wasn't I just stabbed?

Craig starts inspecting his body checking around all the blood. He checked his stomach and saw the award beside him and his chest was completely healed.

CRAIG (cont'd)

What the hell?!

Craig jumps up and checks himself over again looking around hysterically.

HOMELESS MAN

Calm down my friend. I brought you here after I saw your killer leave.

CRAIG

Who? Oh you're the guy from the restaurant that I met.

The homeless man moves closer to him leaning forward.

HOMELESS MAN

Young man you may call me NOMAD.

CRATG

Nomad? So why were you following me?

NOMAD

I see great things in your future. I am not what you'd call a normal man.

CRAIG

Please don't take offense but is this a trick of some sorts? I can clearly see you're a man.

NOMAD

What I mean is that you are important. I have felt it. Despite my misfortune in life, I've always been following you.

Then who are you? Who attacked me?

NOMAD

I am as I said before Nomad. Craig you were attacked by an assassin known as LAdy Stoneheart. She is part woman...

Craig interrupted the old man.

CRAIG

...I know part cat creature. I was informed about her prior to my conference. I just didn't think I'd ever come toe to toe with her.

NOMAD

That is no mistake. She is a silent killer and quite good at her job. I've avoided detection for decades.

The old man wanders to another room gathering food.

NOMAD (cont'd)

Here, you must be hungry. Eat up. It's been several days since you went missing. The world believes you to be dead.

CRAIG

(frantic)

What?! I was supposed to meet up with...

NOMAD

(interrupting)

...It matters not what you had planned. The point is, that by some miracle you were healed from death's door. YOU Craig are the lone person who must stand up against this corruption.

CRAIG

What is this madness you keep speaking of? Where are you from?

NOMAD

It's no madness I assure you. It is not a "where" I am from but a "when".

"When"? What are you talking about?

NOMAD

(sighing)

It maybe easier if I show you...

The old man's eyes go pearl white and he leans into Craig touching the top of his head.

EXT. NEW HAVEN - FUTURE

Craig and the Nomad were viewing a dystopian future. There was a house and a bunker as well as corporate police.

CRAIG

What am I seeing?

NOMAD

It is what the future looks like. Dead and unfriendly to those who oppose the corporations and world government. Here is just the future of your city.

CRAIG

(surprised)

This is New Haven!?

NOMAD

Yes and that's not all. I was here this night. The INTREPIDS were out in full force. Exterminating all who oppose the reign of the...

CRATG

Do I see Antares written on their sleeves?

NOMAD

Yes however that is not all that is wrong with this picture.

Nomad controlled the view and showed inside a building the Intrepids were aiming at.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAFE HOUSE

We see a FEMALE ELDER with a YOUNG NOMAD and a ROBOT inside talking. Craig and Nomad stood to the side watching things transpire.

FEMALE ELDER

It wasn't a request. That suit you have has the capability so I need you to go back to the date...

A rocket blows a side in the house launching the woman against a pillar, killing her on impact.

YOUNG NOMAD

HOLY SHIT!

ROBOT

INCOMING, MOVE!

The robot was hit with the next missile as it dived in the way of young Nomad to protect him. Nomad runs out of the house to the underground bunker as the rest of the house exploded.

EXT. BUNKER - PEEKING TO THE YARD

YOUNG NOMAD

My god...

He turned and found the a tank getting to his suit but it must have been in the house still.

YOUNG NOMAD (cont'd)

Well slag.

Waves at no one, since they're all dead.

YOUNG NOMAD (cont'd)

You guys want to help? No? Oh well, guess I better start digging...

He heads back to the house after the area was clear.

The two stand watching what was to happen as the Intrepids leave satisfied with their work.

INT. ABANDONED DOJO

Craig and Nomad return to the Dojo from their trance like state.

CRAIG

What the hell did I just see?

NOMAD

The future my boy.

CRAIG

Was that you? That lone survivor?

NOMAD

(sighs)

Yes. Yes it was. I was the only one who was able to escape that night. Unfortunately I overshot my time jump and ended up decades earlier than I had intended to go. Due to the trauma of my suit being destroyed while I was wearing it, and the suit's abilities, I gained some inert abilities.

CRAIG

What was your original mission?

NOMAD

That's not important now. Right now YOU have to be ready for the fight at hand. And right now, you are NOT ready. Tonight we train. For now, get some rest. We're going to be here for a while.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - LOUNGE

The friends of Craig gathered to best decided where to proceed.

DAVID

So I guess now that we're all here what do we do?

DENIELLE

Weren't you with Craig? What happened to him?

DAVID

I was with him! What do I look like? His body guard? I don't know what happened. There was no one else on that balcony with the two of us. I walked back inside and within minutes I went to find him and he was gone.

The anguish gets to Denielle while the others watch, waiting to jump in to the conversation.

DENIELLE

(crying)

Of course! I finally get him to notice me and he dies.

DAVID

We don't know that yet. He could be held ransom for all we know.

ALANA

If Craig's not responding and he disappeared, then chances are Antares put a hit out on him and he's dead. Antares doesn't leave loose ends running about.

Especially one as vocal as Craig.

LAUREN

You guys might want to see this...

Lauren is pointing at a television and it's a news report showing what appears to be the convention where Craig was murdered.

CLARK

This is Clark Walters and tonight's top story has us saddened. Those of us lucky enough to know him were glad to know him. For someone to do this despicable act, well it leaves even I speechless. We have the security footage but I must warn, it's graphic.

The news shot cuts to a security video of a man being heaved by a shrouded figure after being impaled right off the balcony to the ground below. We see another figure dragging the body shortly thereafter. CLARK (cont'd)

As you can see with this graphic murder, we lost what appears to be Craig Stevens the other day. He hasn't been heard from in a few days now. His parent company Altered Geek Media was unable to be reached for comment at this time. More on this story as it develops.

TELEVISION SFX TURNING OFF

The group just look at each other saddened.

DENIELLE

(shaking)

What am I going to do? I can't do this all by myself! We certainly can't keep his mission if it means the rest of us get killed. Who knows how many others get the same death that Craig did.

ALANA

But if we don't, then he dies in vain and the Antares will continue on until there is no opposition.

JESSICA

I agree. There's nothing we can do now besides avenging Craig's death. We can play the rest of his footage as tribute to him and in the mean time develop some new content. In addition to hunting down their CEO.

LAUREN

(meekly)

Denielle, what do you want to do?

DENIELLE

What do you mean, "I" want to do?

DAVID

Well, you're kind of the boss now.

DENIELLE

Oh, yeah that's right. I guess I am.

Denielle pauses and looks around the room and manages to muster up some confidence regardless of just loosing Craig.

DENIELLE (cont'd)

First, let's air all of Craig's footage. This should be able to finance a small army with the amount of advertising that will come about from that. In turn that will fund our new project that Craig started before he died.

ALANA

In the mean time I will be beefing up security. I used to do that when I worked for the BlackStar Corporation. In addition to corporate espionage.

DENIELLE

Wait? Do you think you can find out who did this to Craig? Or even if he's still alive?

ALANA

Possibly but that would endanger us all. It might be prudent to wait at the moment.

DENIELLE

You're probably right. Well let's do this.

The team disburses while mourning the loss of Craig and attempting to continue their jobs.

INT. ANTARES CORPORATION - DEREK ANTARES' OFFICE

Derek is watching the murder of Craig Steven's and the newscast play out.

DEREK

Ahh how nice it is to have squashed a bug in the morning. One more honest person out of the way of my goals. Too bad too, he could have been of great use to me.

The professor was standing in the office watching Antares amused face.

PROFESSOR

Now that we seem to have crushed this iceberg, what about the small icicles that follow in his footsteps?

DEREK

What about them? We'll just have to BUY his media company and fire them all, or you can use them for your experiments. If that isn't possible, well we know what can happen to a building in short order. Why with all of these munitions it would be easy to eliminate our opposition.

PROFESSOR

(dry laughing)

Yes there is that of course.

DEREK

What do you have for me?

PROFESSOR

I am still working on that Mister Antares. I plan to have a solid cure in line for you in the near future.

DEREK

Excellent. I grow weary of this day and age. My life is almost at it's end with this body and I still have a goal to achieve.

INT. ABANDONED DOJO

Nomad and Craig begin training

MONTAGE of Craig and Nomad training

-Craig learning new moves, how to protect himself, building Craig's muscles, stamina, reflexes, fighting styles

-Much like a rocky montage.

NOMAD

It appears due to your extreme healing factor, you are able to acclimate your body with the training and keep it there. You also seem to have a limitless supply of adrenaline coursing through your veins. This is spectacular!

So what you're saying is I am evolving while growing my body to be nearly invincible?

NOMAD

Yes there is that. We should choose a new name for you for when you re-enter society.

CRAIG

I have a name but I need something before I feel ready to use it.

NOMAD

I believe your training is complete. At least for now. GO and rejoin your friends. But be careful. You may not be able to be hurt, but those around you can.

CRAIG

Thank you for all you've done. I will not let you down. Farewell my friend.

Craig leaves the premises and Nomad stands alone. He sits down to meditate.

NOMAD

Come out of the shadows, I know you're here.

Lady Stoneheart steps forward from the shadows.

LADY STONEHEART

How did you know I was here? I wasn't making any sounds.

NOMAD

Ahh yes. You forget child, I know everything. Just as I know all who you've killed. And now you're here for me. Tell me, how long have you been standing there?

LADY STONEHEART

I just arrived. You are right stranger, my employer has sent me to kill you. Why is such a feeble man so important? NOMAD

Perhaps one day you'll discover the reasons. For now, let's get this over with.

Nomad lunges forward smacking Lady Stoneheart with his scepter from beneath his cloak. She lands a few good swipes in on him. Nomad manages to knock her hard in the stomach, sides and head before she sneaks up behind him and slices his back.

NOMAD

(in pain)

AHH! You are fast.

LADY STONEHEART

You're not bad yourself old man. Time to finish this.

NOMAD

You won't win. The days of Antares are numbered. The timeline is changing as we speak. Tell your masters he won't win.

Lady Stoneheart smiles and lunges at Nomad who smashes his time scepter into the wall, destroying the elements and he rams the scepter into Lady Stoneheart cutting her sides.

LADY STONEHEART

(heavy breathing)

Heh, you are stronger than you look. And faster than I thought you would be. It doesn't matter.

NOMAD

My mission is complete Stoneheart. Tell Antares to kiss my ass. We'll meet again in another life.

Lady Stoneheart looks at him inquisitively and in her now bleeding and weakening state, she reaches far enough and slits his throat as she races past him.

NOMAD

(gurgling)

Nomad drops to the ground choking, bleeding out as Lady Stoneheart promptly escapes.

Craig returns to the Dojo.

(searching)

Nomad? Where is he?

Craig looks over towards a room and sees the destroyed scepter and blood. He races over to that area.

CRAIG (cont'd)

(angry)

What? Oh no! Nomad!

Craig looks over the old man and stands back up.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Claw marks? It must be the same woman who killed me. Whoever she is will pay. I promise I will avenge your death Nomad. I won't let your mission be in vain. It's time to take the fight to them.

Craig stealthily leaves the dojo and heads off in secret to meet again with his friends.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - RECORDING STUDIO

Denielle goes into the studio with Lauren running controls.

DENIELLE

Well Lauren I think we should let the world know what we've discovered about Craig. It's our only shot at this point.

Lauren fiddles with the controls grabbing the microphone.

LAUREN

I understand Denielle. Ready when you are.

Denielle takes a deep breath and looks at the camera and nods. Lauren turns the camera on broadcasting on their website.

DENIELLE

Hello fans of Altered Geek Media. I am as many of you know Denielle from the Fit Ready Go show. I am not the host Craig was but I hope to gain your trust and you'll give me a chance. He was such a great friend to us all.

Denielle pauses and looks over as David enters the studio joining Denielle.

DAVID

What Denielle is trying to say is although we are not Craig we hope you'll follow us into the future. Craig died doing what he loved which was seeing all of you and hunting down the cause of all the CEO deaths. He was investigating the Antares Corporation when he was killed. We'll update you as we discover more.

DENIELLE

You're encouraged to reach out to us if you find some misgivings in your community. We are going to help in memory of Craig. So if you would like to contact us, click the email below and contact us on social media.

DAVTD

So until next time, Get Altered, Get Geeky with the Altered Geeks!

Lauren motions to let them know they are off the air. Denielle and David walk back and review the footage.

DAVID (cont'd)

It looks good. I like to think Craig would be proud.

DENIELLE

Yeah...

Jessica walks in and sees them moping over Craig again.

JESSICA

Hey guys let's get out of here and have some drinks. We need to get away from this for a bit.

LAUREN

That may not be a bad idea. Sorry I won't be joining you guys. I will probably run home.

JESSICA

Party pooper.

LAUREN

Not everyone likes to party Jess.

JESSICA

I wasn't saying we'd party. I was saying just chill out and get away from HERE.

LAUREN

In either case, I'll see you guys later.

Lauren leaves as Alana walks in to chat.

ALANA

I think I'm going to stick around here and get the security up to par. This place's security kind of sucks.

DENIELLE

What kind of security?

ALANA

(smirking)

Don't worry about it. I have it handled.

DAVID

Well let's get out of the studio for starters and then we can figure out where we're going.

They all move into the Lounge to continue talking before leaving.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - LOUNGE

The group of friends sit around trying to decide where they're going to go after they leave the building. Jessica turns on the television waiting for a response.

TV SFX

JESSICA

(annoyed)

Ahhh, let me know when you guys decide something.

Some of them get out their phones and start looking things up as Jessica rested. A reporter came on the screen in an urgent manner.

CLARK

It seems today's bad news isn't done. We now have a report that SCP21 Studios was just attacked by a savage cat like creature. Some casualties are expected, several are in medical care now. The creature has not been found. It also appears their CEO Jim Bear is among the casualties.

The group all look at each other noticing what's happening. Jessica turns the television off.

TV SFX

DENIELLE

So any CEO who gets in the way of the Antares group is being removed from the equation.

ALANA

More likely he's clearing the playing field to attempt hostile takeovers in the midst of the confusion.

JESSICA

Shh! I think I hear something.

Banging and Metal SFX

Banging is coming from the other side of a wall. The group turns and looks for objects with which to protect themselves.

DAVID

Be ready guys!

ALANA

Get behind something!

The group notices a secret door starting to open behind the wall in Craig's office. The cabinet is moving out of the way and sliding. The group rushes forwards to be surprised at the person hiding behind the wall.

END ACT III

ACT IV

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - LOUNGE

The group looks on in utter shock as Craig comes walking in through the secret passage way.

DENIELLE

(surprised)

Craig?! But we know you died!

CRAIG

I did. Or was supposed to.

DAVID

Dude where's your trophy.

Craig looks over at David and gives him a look.

CRAIG

Seriously bro? Really? I come back from the dead and you ask me about the trophy?

DAVID

Yeah you're right, they'll give you another.

DENIELLE

(annoyed)

DAVID! Stop it!

ALANA

How did you survive?

CRAIG

Apparently they didn't take into consideration I can heal, really really fast.

DAVID

Like a comic character?

CRAIG

More or less.

DAVID

Cool!

JESSICA

How is that possible?

I am not sure but I guess it runs in my blood line. It just took a massive impact to the chest to activate it.

DAVID

So you're like an Altered Human. That's awesome.

JESSICA

Enought commentary David. We get it you're excited.

ALANA

Were you followed?

CRAIG

Not that I can tell. I was saved by that homeless man I gave food to the other night. He dragged me off and helped me.

DENIELLE

Where is he now?

Craig looks at them somberly.

CRAIG

He's dead. That tiger woman creature killed him too. I thought he would have seen it coming?

DENIELLE

What?

CRAIG

Nevermind. In the mean time...

He was interrupted by Denielle.

DENIELLE

We need to inform the public!

ALANA

That may not be wise as of yet.

CRAIG

I agree. I have another idea what we can do with ol' Antares. It is mostly a waiting game on our part.

DAVID

Let's hear it!

CRAIG

No. I want to keep this circle small.

Craig looks over at Alana and she gives him a look.

CRAIG (cont'd)

I'll need Alana for this mission though.

DENIELLE

You're no warrior.

CRAIG

I am now. Anyhow just run things like normal. I'll return shortly. It's time to turn the tables on Derek Antares.

EXT. BLACKSTAR CORPORATION - TOWER

Craig and Alana walk towards the rear of the BlackStar tower. Alana pulls out her keycard and enters in a six digit code.

The door opens and the two rush in.

CRAIG

How do you know the access codes?

ALANA

I never was terminated. I simply took a leave of absence. Means I still work here.

She paused and smiled at Craig turning around.

ALANA (cont'd)

Besides that, they're security kind of sucks. Kind of like yours.

She winked and walked through the stairways with Craig following behind her.

CRAIG

Ha ha, laugh it up now Alana. I'll hire you once we get Antares taken care of.

ALANA

So what's your plan?

CRAIG

I need to get to the R&D department in the basement.

ALANA

What?! How do you know where it is? I've only ever been there for a few...

CRAIG

I was shown something when I was doing my research on Antares. Unfortuneately he only found one component of what he was looking for. The other piece is...

Craig reaches over and smashes his hand on a part of the wall. His fingers cruch loudly with sounds of his hand breaking.

CRAIG (cont'd)

(screaming softly)

Gaaaah! Yow that hurts!

ALANA

What the hell did you do that for?

CRAIG

Look!

The blood of Craigs' soaks into the wall and the wall slides open.

ALANA

(shaking head)

I'm not even going to ask.

CRAIG

Probably better you didn't. I'm going in, watch out here for me.

ALANA

Wait just a minute!

CRAIG

Trust me, you can't go in here.

ALANA

(groans)

Fine.

Craig enters the special chamber. He presses a button on the cylindrical tube. The tube soars a few dozen levels underground. Multi-colored neon lights flash as he goes down.

CRAIG

Wow this is so sci-fi. Can't believe my blood or ones like me was the key. I wonder who it was that put this here?

INT. BLACKSTAR - R&D UNDERGROUND LAB

The elevator begins to slow and stop. The doors open and it's a very metal style lab. Craig steps out into the room and looks around.

CRAIG

This is wild! Ahh here it is.

He walks over to the tank in the far corner of the room and inside it was a magnificient suit. It contains a helmet, cape, body armor, a energy sword and was facing him.

CRAIG (cont'd)

(smirking)

Jackpot!

Craig reaches to the case and puts his hand on the touch pad. It scans his hand and the glass case opens revealing the suit to Craig.

He leans in and starts grabbing the gear to put on his body. His hand bumps a button on the chest and the pieces start to attache together almost magnetically to his body until he is completely armored up.

CRAIG (cont'd)

Wow this is cool. I can feel the power coursing through my body. I need to get out of here though. Just need a few more gifts...

He reaches over and grabs a bag and begins throwing excess gear into it. He walks to the control panel and leans to press a few keys and a flash drive shoots out of the arm panel.

CRAIG (cont'd)

It's like the suit is thinking along with me. Weird!

The flash drive inserts and he proceeds to copy all the data on the suit and other technical gear which is seen on screen quickly flashing as it copies.

Computer Copying SFX

As it finishes Craig pulls the drive and it re-inserts to the suit. He finishes and then activates the energy sword and slices through the computer system destroying it.

Electricity and Slicing SFX

Computer explosion SFX

Craig turns and races back towards the elevator. He hits the button and it sky rockets back towards the main level of R&D.

INT. BLACKSTAR - R&D

The elevator is still heading closer as sirens sound.

ALANA

Dammit Craig! Couldn't help but draw attention to yourself could you?

She pulls out a laser pistol and backs to the wall waiting for the elevator which is now coming to a stop. The door opens and an armored soldier walks out. Alana turns and fires.

ALANA (cont'd)

Holy crap! Is that you Craig?

CRAIG

Uh, yeah. Ha ha ha.

ALANA

That armor looks beastly. How did you know?

CRAIG

Again I did some research but something in the suit was calling to me. It latched onto me once I touched it.

ALANA

Well enough for the pleasantries, we need to leave. Now!

The two run down the hallways exiting R&D, heading towards the exit. Craig's armor was powering up.

CRATG

How close are we to the exit?

ALANA

We're almost there!

The alarms were getting louder and security could be heard running the halls. Craig activated his jets as they ran outside the door.

ALANA (cont'd)

What the?!

CRAIG

No time, jump on!

Alana jumped on Craig and he flew off back towards Altered Geek Media HQ.

INT. NEW HAVEN - TOWN HALL - THE NEXT MORNING

The press were gathering together as well as some of the heads of the local corporations: BraveJet, BlackStar, Antares, SCP21 Studios for a press conference.

CLARK WALTERS

Hello everyone, you're tuned into the press conference soon to be headed by Derek Antares to clear the air on the allegations made against him and his company.

The press and company heads sit down in the hall as Derek Antares heads to the microphone.

CLARK

Oh, here he is now. Derek Antares everyone!

The crowd claps for Derek Antares.

DEREK

Hello my friends. As you know in recent months there have been several allegations towards my company for the theft of the element of ZerCellium. While I can say confidently that we have NOT stolen the materials, we have no (MORE)

DEREK (cont'd)

idea what has happened to your fellow CEO's. We obtained out own supply of the ZerCellium by harvesting the soil from the waters of New Haven.

CLARK

So we would like to ask about the recent allegations in particular towards the Craig Stevens.

DEREK

It is true I did meet with him the day before his convention appearance and offered to partner our companies. However he declined and we parted ways. It was a mutual parting of ways.

He pauses and looks around.

DEREK (cont'd)

I would be willing to purchase or head the boards of any companies that are in need of financial help. It's been an unfortunate set of extenuating circumstances as of late. I hope I am not the next CEO on the chopping block.

The crowd starts getting riled up and looking around.

DEREK (cont'd)

Excuse me sirs! What is the meaning of this?

The Altered Geek Media crew walk in.

DENIELLE

We all know you're lying Derek.

DEREK

What proof do you have?

DENIELLE

We have proof, that and you failed to follow through with killing Craig.

DEREK

If I had anything to do with his unfortunate death you would know.

(MORE)

DEREK (cont'd)

Besides if that urchin had done her job none of this would have gotten out!

Everyone looks at Derek who realizes he slipped up as Craig walks in followed by David and Alana who are dragging a tied up Lady Stoneheart. Derek's face goes pale. The crowd gasps.

CRATG

Is that so Derek. I seem to have your assassin here who thanks to some persuasion has given up the goods on the other CEO's.

DEREK

(surprised and frantic)
YOU!? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

CRAIG

Like I said, she failed. And now it's your turn!

Everyone looks on at Antares and starts yelling at him in protest.

DEREK

How DARE YOU! You'll pay for this Craig! I will not be denied!

Derek runs with his bodyguards out of the town hall meeting and races back to Antares tower. Craig steps up to the microphone.

CRAIG

First I'd like to say I am sorry for not stepping forward sooner. I was stabbed a week ago. A poor homeless man took pity on me and nursed me back to health. For every bad deed there is a good one to counter it. Unfortunately for helping me, he too was killed by this creature.

He motions to the armed guards to take Lady Stoneheart away.

CRAIG (cont'd)

I am offering help to any who would like it in their companies. I don't have a personal stake or an agenda. I want you to continue life as normal but not forget the evil that (MORE) CRAIG (cont'd)

has been committed today. Thank you and I'll catch you back on the show!

Craig steps down and the audience cheers. Figure heads from the companies are shaking hands with Craig as he rejoins his friends and leaves the city hall meeting.

INT. ANTARES CORPORATION - R&D

Derek Antares heads down to the basement of his skyscraper to meet with the Professor.

PROFESSOR

It seems your public eye has failed you Derek.

DEREK

Shut up Glacier! This wouldn't have happened if your idiot guinea pig hadn't been caught. And not once but twice! You imbecile.

PROFESSOR

Choose your next word carefully Derek. My response may not be so cold to respond.

Derek gathers himself and attempts to calm his posture. He glances over the Professor's shoulder to see what he's been working on.

DEREK

What is that you're working on?

The professor sees Derek's line of sight and reaches for the device.

PROFESSOR

Ahh this...this beauty is the plasma rifle prototype. It has a renewable energy with the ZerCellium you had acquired for me.

DEREK

Do you happen to have any plasma grenades as well? I maybe needing these. It's time the other corporations were brought to their knees.

Glacier points him to the corner where there is an entire casing of plasma grenades. Behind a glass door were some humanoid creatures in suspended animation.

PROFESSOR

Take what you need and leave me to my work. I do not have time for your political games Antares.

DEREK

This will all be over soon.

Derek leaves the Professor to his agenda behind closed doors and heads to start his war.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - LOUNGE

Craig and his friends all reconvene after the town hall meeting in the lounge of AGM.

CRAIG

First thing on the agenda is to capture Derek Antares. If I had to guess he's either in hiding or attempting to make a big move somewhere.

DAVID

Uh yeah you might say that. That old fart maybe headed to any of the corporations.

ALANA

What makes you think that?

DAVID

If some guy just stole all my thunder in public, not that I'd do that but I could see where someone would.

ALANA

Yeah Craig, now maybe a good time to try on the gear.

DAVID

Gear?

DENIELLE

What gear?

You're probably right.

Craig heads over to his chamber within his office. A touch pad activates and he places his palm on it to open the door.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - HIDDEN ROOM

Craig invited some of his close friends in to see what he was talking about. The suit was in a case beside a computer and some advanced weaponry.

ALANA

I thought you only took the suit.

CRAIG

Call it an insurance policy. I will help BlackStar after we finish this fight with Antares.

Craig reaches into the case and touches the chest plate and the pieces all attach to his body.

DAVTD

Dude that thing is awesome! Would make a great segment for the show.

DENIELLE

We've had enough danger for a while thank you very much. Let's keep this quiet.

CRAIG

I agree. Since I apparently can't be hurt as far as I know it's safest for me to go alone. This is between me and Derek.

ALANA

I'll manage the computers for the radio input. Hopefully that crazy old man has lost it and you'll find him quickly.

They pause looking on Craig in awe for his now super hero body.

ALANA (cont'd)

So got a cool code name for me or just going to stick with Craig?

(smiling)

Call me, MegaDrive. Wish me luck!

Craig opens up a panel and a window uncovers which he rockets through and out onto the nearest skyscraper rooftop.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOF LEDGE - EVENING

MEGADRIVE (V.O)

As you can see this is where my normal life spiraled into the weird that it is now.

A police radio is on MegaDrive's person which is broadcasting in the background, gradually getting louder.

Radio SFX

OPERATOR (V.O)

...BraveJet Industries has been attacked. Suspect is in his late 60's entering the premises with a van of chemicals and explosives. A perimeter has been set but we can't get close enough without causing fatalities. Send in backup. Police are unable to apprehend the suspect. He is firing blue energy of some sort from his rifle. Pursue with extreme caution. Repeat suspect is armed and dangerous.

MegaDrive shuts off his radio, activates his jetpack and leaps from the building rooftop, flying off towards the emergency.

ALANA (V.O)

You got that?

MEGADRIVE

Yeah. I got it. I'm on my way.

ALANA (V.O)

Good luck!

MEGADRIVE

Luck has nothing to do with it.

EXT. BRAVEJET INDUSTRIES ENTRANCE

Derek Antares blasts his way into the building which is surrounded by police cruisers. He races inside as MegaDrive lands near the police. A grisly old DETECTIVE JACKSON POWERS steps forward with his gun held.

DETECTIVE POWERS Great! Another freak coming to cause problems.

MEGADRIVE

I'm sorry but I am going in there to stop him, not start any issues with you. What's the situation?

DETECTIVE POWERS
That old man there is shooting up
the place with a high powered
plasma rifle. He looks like he was
headed to the basement.

The Detective heads over to him getting close.

DETECTIVE POWERS (cont'd) Don't try anything funny. I will hunt you down 'til my last breath if you're here to cause trouble.

MEGADRIVE

I assure you I'm here for Antares. Get everyone evacuated in case I can't stop him in time.

DETECTIVE POWERS (sarcastically)
Yeah I got it, good luck. You're gonna need it.

MegaDrive rockets in towards the area Antares shot up and races inside.

INT. BRAVEJET INDUSTRIES - PARKING GARAGE

Antares is setting explosives on the supports for the parking garage.

MEGADRIVE Hold it right there Derek!

DEREK

Who the hell are you?

MEGADRIVE

Let's just say I'm an old friend.

DEREK

Funny. I don't seem to remember having any.

Derek fires a few shots from his plasma rifle. One connecting with MegaDrive sending him hurtling backwards. Derek proceeds to continue planting bombs on the supports.

MEGADRIVE

(weakly)

OW! That gun packs a wallop. Might have to attempt a stealthy entrance.

DEREK

I know you're not dead. That armor I suspect has much more to it than meets the eye. It can't save you from a building falling on you though.

MEGADRIVE

It won't have to. I won't be here. You will.

DEREK

I love a challenge.

Derek strikes with ferocity for his age as MegaDrive is heading towards him. Shots fire at MegaDrive as he pulls his energy sword to dodge the blasts.

DEREK (cont'd)

I see I'm not the only one with some expensive toys.

MegaDrive manages to get the upper hand smashing Derek's gun out of his hand, slicing it in two. The shock settles into Antares as MegaDrive moves closer punching the old man until he falls to the ground. He points his sword to motion for Antares to stay down.

MEGADRIVE

I'm taking you in.

Derek laughs and reaches into his jacket grabbing a small device.

DEREK

If I'm going down, then I'm taking you with me!

MegaDrive sees it's the detonator and races towards the exit with his jets active. Derek flips the switch and is bathed in the plasma as the base of the building is lit on fire and explodes.

EXT. BRAVEJET INDUSTRIES

The police watch on as the building starts erupting. A shot fires off to the side and smashes into the next building.

DETECTIVE POWERS

FALL BACK! FALL BACK!

The building continues crumbling around them until it is only a few feet high. In the alleyway a man gets up.

MEGADRIVE

Oh wow. That hurts.

He stumbles slowly as his body is regenerating beneath the armor. He regains composure and rockets off back to AGM.

INT. ALTERED GEEK MEDIA - LOUNGE

After Craig exits his hidden chamber, he joins the others in the lounge.

ALANA

What happened in there?

CRAIG

I think it's over. I tried to take him alive but before I could he detonated the network of bombs he placed in the parking garage. I barely made it out alive thanks to the suit. The building and plasma took him out.

DAVID

Stupid old man. Least he got what was coming to him.

CRAIG

I'm ready to relax.

ALANA

We should plan for the future. With that suit and that room we could be what this city needs.

CRAIG

A hero?

ALANA

A legend. Someone willing to do the right thing and inspire the legacy for future generations.

DENIELLE

That's all fine and well but I believe Craig and I had unfinished plans to attend to.

CRAIG

(laughing)

And that. We can talk about it later. For now let's rest up. Hopefully we've seen the last of Derek Antares and his brood.

DENIELLE

Let's go Craig. Where should we go for dinner?

CRAIG

I'm thinking Italian.

DENIELLE

(excited)

My favorite. See you guys later.

The two leave the building heading off to dinner as David and Alana stand nearby watching.

END ACT IV

CREDITS TEASER

INT. ANTARES CORPORATION - R&D

A set of monitors sat on display watching the events of the day unfold. Professor Glacier leans back in his chair rubbing his chin.

PROFESSOR GLACIER
It seems our little experiment did
not go quite as planned. Antares
was not strong enough for the task
at hand. But maybe there will be
room for another.

He steps into the back of the lab and in one of the tanks we see another Derek Antares growing in the pod, starting to resemble the one who perished only younger.

EXT. BRAVEJET INDUSTRIES - RUBBLE

Slowly moving closer to the rubble we see the full scope of the damage. As we move to where the exit used to be, a hand all blue fuming plasma reaches from beneath the rocks.

FADE OUT