

GODLIKE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - ANDREA LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dark street. One streetlight. Broken.

Distant sky GRUMBLES.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANDREA LEWIS (24), strong but yielding, sits in her recliner with a candle glowing before her.

She clutches a digital picture of herself and a towhead baby. The caption reads "STELLA'S FIRST STEPS".

A lonely tear. She looks upward, her eyes closed.

Praying...

ANDREA

Please...

A deep breath and her eyes open, sans tears.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Andrea pulls cereal and a bowl from the cupboard. She places them on the table and opens the...

REFRIGERATOR

...its mouth agape and blue light shining in her face.

She picks up the lone carton of milk. She shakes it.

ANDREA

Dammit.

She closes the refrigerator.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Andrea scurries down an empty street.

The clouds speak in thunderous ROARS. The air is calm.

She opens her umbrella.

The sky only drizzles. Curious.

Lighting strikes. Andrea stumbles at the SMACK of thunder.  
A LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKES halfway down an alley.  
The shock throws Andrea off her feet. She drops her umbrella.  
She looks up to see a HALO emanating from behind a dumpster.  
A BABY CRIES.  
Andrea pushes herself to her feet and sneaks down the alley.

ANDREA

Hello?

WAH! WAH! WAAAH!

ANDREA

Do you need help?

The cries echo through her ears. She covers them.

Past the dumpster, she sees it. In a hole in the pavement a newborn baby. Black with soft curly hair protruding. She will name him GORMAN. He's quiet.

Andrea kneels.

ANDREA

Hello, little fella. What are you  
doing out in the rain?

Gorman smiles.

Heavy drops fall.

Andrea checks her surroundings. No lit windows. She looks to the sky. Rain hits her cheeks.

She picks up the baby.

Her feet glide down the alley. She turns and rushes home.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - BABY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea plays patty cake and peek-a-boo with Gorman.

...picks him up and rocks him in a chair, cradling him.

...sings softly as she feeds him. His eyes become heavy.

...grows from her chair. Gorman sleeps on her shoulder.

Andrea leans him over the crib. *Just a little longer.*  
 She sits back down in her rocker patting Gorman's back.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - NIGHT

It's the middle of the night. Andrea inches the door closed behind her. She makes her way down the...

HALLWAY

She carries Gorman close to her chest. He coos.

ANDREA

Shhh. We'll be done soon. No one  
 will know you're here.

She stops at a door. She faces the retinal scan. BING!

Andrea opens the door to the...

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - LAB - DAY

Andrea bounces Gorman as she clears a spot on the table.

She sets him on a scale. Caresses his curls. Ten pounds.

Andrea pulls a needle from a box. She draws blood from Gorman's arm. Gorman wails. Ear piercing wails of agony.

*Shhh!*

ANDREA

It's all over. You're a brave boy.

Andrea bandages Gorman's arm. He calms at her touch.

ETHAN ANTRIX (38), a graying menace, sneaks in.

ETHAN

Andrea! What are you doing?

Startled. Andrea grips Gorman. Ethan creeps to her.

ETHAN

Where did you get that baby?

*Do I tell him?*

ANDREA

He was all alone.

*Hmmm...*

ETHAN  
Is he healthy?

ANDREA  
(warning)  
He's young.

Ethan looks over his shoulder as he leaves. Eyeing Gorman.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

A table with digital controls. Three enormous monitors on the wall. Ethan enters, a SCIENTIST at the controls.

ETHAN  
How close?

EXT. MAXIMA DEFENSE - CONTINUOUS

Four quad drones race through the night air over the city in a perfect diamond formation. Between them they carry a device about the size of a fire extinguisher, the PHASE CANNON.

The straps pulled tight between them. The phase cannon holds.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The drone's view on a monitor.

SCIENTIST (O.S.)  
We're about thirty seconds away.

A small complex of buildings appears on the monitor.

EXT. MAXIMA DEFENSE - CONTINUOUS

The drones hover. The cannon aims at the main building.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The second monitor displays heat signatures.

The third monitor shows the building in cross hairs.

ETHAN  
Start the test.

SCIENTIST  
We've got warm bodies.

Ethan glares down at the scientist.

ETHAN  
I said, fire.

The scientist shrinks. *I'm not a killer.*

Ethan reaches across and taps a screen.

A circle on the third monitor blinks red.

EXT. MAXIMA DEFENSE - CONTINUOUS

The cannon muzzle glows white. A viscous beam of light...

SHOOMS straight down. The cannon lifts slightly, pulling the drones up.

The beam pierces the roof of the building. Three seconds.

The beam disappears.

RUMBLING inside the building.

KABOOM! An explosion ripples through. The body parts of scientists fly from the building. Some survive. Hardly.

The explosion ripples several hundred yards. Buildings fall.

KABOOM! KABOOM!

SCIENTIST  
Dozens of people...

ETHAN  
Who stole plans for the Regenerate Phase Cannon. John, we need to do what's necessary. I can't have one of my scientists hesitating in the face of a simple moral dilemma.

SCIENTIST  
Please, no!

Two huge GUARDS enter drawing pistols on the scientist.

ETHAN  
I'll send flowers to your wife.

The guard take the scientist away.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Andrea eats a sandwich with Gorman in his carrier beside her.

She gazes at him with hope and wonder.

A family plays on the jungle gym. Andrea watches.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - LAB - NIGHT

Andrea clutches Gorman.

Towering over her, Ethan. A NURSE (40s) accompanies him.

Ethan grips a .45 caliber pistol.

ANDREA

He's my baby!

ETHAN

Of course he is. He could as easily not be if, perhaps, someone such as myself found this mystery baby to be a threat and be removed from you. I have the power.

The gun twitches. Andrea flinches.

ETHAN

Then again, you can give him to us and continue to raise him. That would be equally suitable. Give him to us, or we take him from you.

She lowers Gorman and gazes into his dark eyes.

Ethan grins.

She hands Gorman over, never lifting her eyes to Ethan.

ETHAN

You can pick him up tomorrow.

ANDREA

But he's so much younger than the others. You could hurt him.

ETHAN

We can't let him fall behind Stella and the orphans.

INT. LAB - NURSERY - DAY

An open plan room. Padded.

FOUR CHILDREN and Gorman divide Andrea's attention.

Towhead spitfire STELLA ANTRIX, 5, pushes Gorman, now about thirty pounds.

Gorman falls on his rear and wails.

Andrea picks him up and puts him over her shoulder, patting him on the back.

ANDREA

It's OK. Stella didn't mean it.

STELLA

Yes I did.

Andrea whips around.

ANDREA

No she did not!

Stella rolls her eyes.

STELLA

He's gotta learn sometime.

Stella goes back to her tumbles.

CAMILLE PARKER (4), one of three orphans, pulls on Andrea's pant leg.

CAMILLE

She really did.

ANDREA

Thank you, Camille. Watch Gorman for me, will you?

Gorman calms down. Andrea sets him on the floor.

ANDREA

Stella! I want to talk to you.

Stella performs a perfect cartwheel.

STELLA

Yeah, yeah.

She tumbles to Andrea who kneels before her.

ANDREA

I want you to be nice. Think of him  
as your little brother.

STELLA

But he's not.

ANDREA

I am your mother, and I'm asking.

Stella shuffles her feet.

STELLA

I miss you at dinner.

ANDREA

I'm sorry, dear. But your father  
believes it's for the best. I love  
you and I miss you, too.

Stella wraps her arms around Andrea, still looking down.

ANDREA

Even when you're a being a brat.

Stella chuckles.

INT. LAB - LATER

Andrea nearly crashes into Ethan and NIKOLA CARSON (early  
30s) hot shot in genetic research, as she exits the nursery.

ANDREA

Sorry--

ETHAN

How is he responding?

ANDREA

He's growing at an amazing rate.  
He's the size of a fourteen month  
old at six months.

ETHAN

Six months! Wonderful! And Stella?

Andrea looks over her shoulder to the nursery.

ANDREA

She's an asshole.

ETHAN

She's too smart. So much to love.

Nikola holds a long hypodermic.

ANDREA  
Don't you hurt him!

Nikola stops. Ethan holds his fingers up, an inch apart. Nikola puts the large needle away. Pulls out a much smaller one.

ANDREA  
He's sensitive to pain.

ETHAN  
R-11 is worth the pain. It will make  
him strong and fast.

Ethan turns away and enters the nursery.

Andrea watches through the window.

INT. NURSERY - CONTINUOUS

Stella runs up to Ethan. He lifts her high in the air. She wraps around his neck and kisses his cheek.

ETHAN  
How's my little girl?

The nurse picks up Gorman. Places him on a table.

Nikola slips the needle into Gorman's arm and draws blood. Gorman screams.

The nurse picks up Gorman and comforts him.

NIKOLA  
Stella? Time for your shot.

Ethan sets Stella down and kneels before her.

ETHAN  
I'll see you at dinner, princess.

Stella tumbles to Nikola.

The nurse hands Nikola a set of needles. He pulls one out and gives Stella a shot in the arm.

STELLA  
Ow! Can't she do it?

NIKOLA

Next time. Ozzie! Nimrod! Come get  
your shots!

OZZIE (4), scrawny but brainy and NIMROD (4), black, bulky, a  
big Teddy bear, saunter slowly.

Camille plays with Gorman.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ethan hurries down the hallway when he's stopped by Nikola.

NIKOLA

Ethan, I'm concerned about Gorman.  
What if the R-11 is affecting him  
differently?

ETHAN

As long as it's working.

NIKOLA

He's aging faster than normal. He's  
as big as Nimrod.

Ethan scans a card on an electronic lock.

ETHAN

Excellent! He'll be ready sooner  
than expected.

NIKOLA

But, sir--

ETHAN

Nikola, I don't have time. Unless  
the boy dies, I don't need to hear  
it.

He opens the door.

NIKOLA

Please--

The door closes in Nikola's face.

EXT. PARK - DAY

SUPER: FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

Gorman and Andrea sit on a park bench along the grass.

Families play and picnic around the park.

GORMAN

Why can't we come to the park all the time?

ANDREA

Our job doesn't offer many off days.

Some kids play touch football.

GORMAN

What are they doing?

ANDREA

It's a game. It's called football.

GORMAN

I want to play football.

ANDREA

You have to learn the rules first.

Gorman watches a boy score a touchdown.

GORMAN

Get the ball from that side to that side, right?

Andrea smiles...

LATER

Gorman runs back to the bench sweating.

GORMAN

We need more off days.

Gorman turns back to see the boys disperse. They wave.

GORMAN

Do we have to go back?

Andrea touches his face. Her smile fades, holds at the end.

ANDREA

You have a special gift.

Gorman, still watching the boys.

GORMAN

They don't hurt each other. If you beat them, they aren't mad.

Gorman puts his arm around Andrea. He stares at the other families having fun in the sunshine.

GORMAN

This...

Andrea puts her arm around him. Embraces him.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Gorman stands ready surrounded by five feral soldiers with their blank faces and odd snarls. Mutated early experiments.

The TRAINER (30s), a Cobra Kai type, calls out...

TRAINER

Go!

One by one the ferals attack Gorman. BOOF! BIFF! POW! One by one they fall. CRACK! SLAM! They go down easily.

TRAINER

I want more ferocity. You're fifteen and built like a dump truck fucked a Ferrari. Use everything.

He slaps Gorman on the back.

TRAINER

Stella. You're up.

STELLA

These guys are too easy. I want to fight Louie.

Gorman looks back.

TRAINER

We're not here to kill each other.  
We're here to fight armies. Men!

Five ferals surround Stella. FISTS and ELBOWS and Stella works through them all. A moment later, they're all down.

STELLA

Now can I fight Louie?

The trainer looks at Gorman.

THOMAS

You up for it?

GORMAN  
Do I have to?

STELLA  
Yes. Now get your ass over here.

The trainer urges Gorman...

GORMAN  
Fine.

Gorman walks to the center to face Stella.

TRAINER  
Ready...

Stella puts her hand on Gorman's shoulder. He brushes it off.

TRAINER  
Go!

Ferocity. Stella can barely dodge Gorman's flurry of fists and feet but manages to avoid any serious blows.

STELLA  
Gonna be a badass, huh?

She returns fire, jumping in the air and kicking him in the head, knocking him back.

She dodges a long combo of punches but misses the flat hand to her chest that sends her flying...

Into the WALL with a THUD.

Gorman is on her in an instant, kneeing and punching.

TRAINER  
No closed fists, you two.

They both look at the trainer. Stella pulls back and punches Gorman in the sternum, sending him flying across the room...

THUD into the wall.

Stella tumbles to Gorman and pimp slaps him.

STELLA  
Come on, Louie! Bring it!

GORMAN  
My name's not Louie.

Gorman elbow's Stella's face.

STELLA

Louie, Louie, Louie! Gorman is a stupid name.

Stella side-kicks Gorman.

GORMAN

My mom gave me that name. It was my great-grandfather's name.

STELLA

My great-grandfather's name. She's not your mom.

Stella throws a closed fist.

Gorman dodges and flat hands Stella's sternum.

BOOF!

Gorman pounces, landing on Stella and striking her face.

A loud CRACK, and her nose breaks and BLEEDS.

TRAINER

Winner--

GORMAN

She is too!

Gorman grabs Stella's hair and SLAMS her head into the floor. He takes her ears, twists her head and...

SSCRIICK!

Stella's neck breaks. She lies helpless.

TRAINER

Gorman!

Gorman returns to the trainer.

Stella lies bleeding and paralyzed.

STELLA

Mom! Daddy! I can't move!

The trainer pats Gorman on the back. *Nice job, kid.*

The nurse races in and tends to Stella.

INT. ETHAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ethan faces off with Andrea, standing in arguing distance.

ETHAN

We had a deal! You have to see it through. You chose this.

ANDREA

I've been at this too long. You can't hold a gun to my head anymore.

ETHAN

What makes you think I'll let you leave? You have nothing without me.

ANDREA

Then pull the trigger.

Ethan puts the gun directly on Andrea's forehead.

ANDREA

*Pull the trigger!*

Ethan's hand tremble's, his finger on the trigger.

He lowers the gun.

ETHAN

Very well, then.

Ethan turns away. Gathers himself.

ETHAN

Take your pathetic kid. Teach him to be a sign-waving pacifist. He's a waste as it is.

ANDREA

The others are free, too.

Ethan laughs.

ETHAN

With no identities outside this complex? They'll never survive.

ANDREA

I will help them.

ETHAN

And Stella will hunt them.

Andrea clenches her fists.

ETHAN  
Take the boy and go.  
(Cold.)  
I hope you and Nikola have a  
wonderful life.

Andrea stiffens as Ethan walks past her. She only catches her  
breath when he's gone.

INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT

The kids gather around the center of the room.

NIMROD  
I'm gonna miss you, little brother.

GORMAN  
You'll have Ozzie to take care of.

Nimrod shakes his head.

OZZIE  
They're moving me to genetics. Ethan  
said I'm worthless as a soldier.

NIMROD  
Took him long enough. I'm moving to  
complex security.

Gorman shakes his hand. Nimrod pulls him in for a hug.

Camille touches Gorman's shoulder. Nimrod releases him.

CAMILLE  
Don't forget...us.

Gorman wraps his arms around her.

GORMAN  
You better call me.

Camille sheds tears.

Nimrod and Ozzie join the hug.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - GAME ROOM - NIGHT

A sparse but spacious room with a small ping pong table at  
the center.

Andrea faces off against Gorman. The ball in her hand.

ANDREA  
Camille called me today.

GORMAN  
Wha'd she say?

She serves.

ANDREA  
She's worried.

Gorman returns. The ball bounces back and forth.

GORMAN  
You can tell her I'm alright.

ANDREA  
It's more than that. Ethan has a  
weapon. Capable of destroying  
armies. She thinks he's gone mad.

GORMAN  
Damn, mom! Wha'd you do to him?

Gorman laughs.

ANDREA  
He's been focused since I left.  
First it was building his own army  
with you and the others. Now a  
weapon of mass destruction. What  
does he have planned?

Gorman slaps the ball past her.

GORMAN  
Nine to nine. Game point. You'd  
think three years would be enough  
time. But nope.

He serves. She returns.

GORMAN  
How's Nimrod and Ozzie?

Smiles...

ANDREA  
Oh, they're fine. Ozzie's working on  
a new Regenerant formula. Nimrod and  
who knows how many ferals guard the  
complex.

Back and forth. Back and forth. Steady.

ANDREA  
Camille misses you.

Gorman blushes.

GORMAN  
Did she say that?

ANDREA  
Does she have to?

The ball speeds up.

GORMAN  
What did you tell her?

ANDREA  
The usual. That you love her and miss her.

The ball bounces and zooms past Gorman.

GORMAN  
Mom!

She laughs...

ANDREA  
I can't help it! And that's game.

She goes around the table to hug him. He rubs his head.

ANDREA  
You go to bed. You've got school tomorrow. I don't want another call from your English teacher.

Gorman kisses her cheek.

GORMAN  
Yes, ma'am.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Shelves filled with books. Computers in bays. Empty tables save for one. The library.

Gorman sits nose deep in "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

A tinkly CHIME.

Gorman looks at his wrist. The thin plastic phone wrapped around it lights up as it *TINKLE TINKS*.

The LIBRARIAN (50s) looks at him.

Gorman touches the device. A screen lights up. Camille.

GORMAN  
I'm at the library.

CAMILLE (FILTERED)  
Can you talk?

The librarian puts her finger to her lips.

LIBRARIAN  
SHHH! No phones!

Gorman ducks his head.

GORMAN  
Can you call me back later?

CAMILLE  
It's really hard to get away.

The librarian comes over.

LIBRARIAN  
Please turn off your phone! This is  
a library, not the stock exchange!

GORMAN  
I gotta go.

He swipes the call away.

EXT. RIVER FRONT - DAY

Concrete banks and metal rails line the river. Stores and  
restaurants line both banks. Lots of people.

Camille leans her elbows on a railing. The water sparkles.

GORMAN (O.S.)  
Long time no see.

Camille turns to find Gorman smiling. She can't hide her  
delight. She rushes to him and kisses his cheek.

CAMILLE  
You've grown!

GORMAN  
You haven't changed.

She takes his hand and leads him along the river front.

CAMILLE

I don't get much time away. Ethan's been obsessed. Always demanding.

GORMAN

You can always come home.

She smiles.

CAMILLE

Would that I could, but I don't think I could survive with no identity and Stella hunting me down.

GORMAN

How's she doing?

CAMILLE

Crazy as ever. She never eats. Never sleeps. She trains all day, sits by that damned cannon all night.

GORMAN

Is she still mad?

CAMILLE

About the neck? Who knows. She never mentions you, so that's good.

Camille stops and takes Gorman's hands by the fingertips.

CAMILLE

I need your help.

GORMAN

I can't. I have a good life now. It's peaceful. No fighting.

Camille leads Gorman back along their path.

CAMILLE

I can't destroy the laser. They'd just build another one. The only irreplaceable part is the Eurylium plate. Without it, they'd blow up the complex. They need it to absorb the laser's energy.

Gorman stops. Camille takes a few more steps. She stops.

CAMILLE

I know you didn't ask. But Stella guards it all night. I can't beat her. Neither can Nimrod.

She walks back to Gorman.

CAMILLE

I understand how you feel. I promise, I wish I could share your life with you. But what life can we have when Ethan can wipe us out with the tap of a button?

Gorman holds her face.

GORMAN

I wish I could be as calm as you.

She puts her hands over his.

CAMILLE

I want to pull off my own head sometimes. But when those in power are going insane, it's imperative for the rest of us to keep our heads on our shoulders. If not, we'll get sucked into their madness.

GORMAN

I have a boring life. It's peaceful. You should come with me.

CAMILLE

It won't be for long if Ethan succeeds. And as long as Stella's around, there'll be no peace for me.

Gorman holds her tightly and looks to the sky.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A black stealth helicopter glides just over the treetops making barely a sound as it disturbs the high branches below.

EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The door slides open. The PILOT comes over the headsets.

PILOT (FILTERED)

ETA three minutes.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Andrea sits next to Gorman on one side of the chopper. TWO SNIPERS sit opposite.

CAMILLE

I know the first time's scary. It'll  
all be over soon.

She smiles and puts her hand over his.

He's hesitant, but strong. He nods.

CAMILLE

I'm glad you came along.

She gives him the thumbs up.

CAMILLE

Dave and Abdullah here will keep us  
covered from the roof. Nimrod said  
he's got fifty men to send out.

GORMAN

And Stella?

CAMILLE

Hopefully, she has better Saturday  
night plans than laser-sitting.  
It'll be over soon. Get in, get the  
plate, get out. Back home to mom.

Gorman gives her the thumbs up.

EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter flies silently.

PILOT (FILTERED)

Thirty seconds.

The helicopter comes upon a clearing.

A large complex with a three story office building and a  
large warehouse off to the side.

The helicopter flies over a ten foot electric fence with  
razor wire on top. It rises and hovers over the warehouse.

PILOT (FILTERED)

Mark zero.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Camille puts her hands on Gorman's shoulders.

Sniper One and two ease over the edge attached to ropes.

CAMILLE

Don't worry. I got your back.

She drops off the side.

Gorman breathes deeply, then lowers himself over the side, stepping on the skid for a moment. He looks down.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Camille waves to Gorman urging him to come down.

EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

One more deep breath and...

WHEWWWWHH

Gorman drops from the skid.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

He dents the roof as he lands.

The helicopter tilts and flies off.

CAMILLE

How far is the rendezvous?

ABDULLAH

One kilometer.

CAMILLE

You two set up shop over there.  
Gorman and I will use the stairs. If  
shit gets hot...

DAVE

Balls out.

CAMILLE

Right.

They break apart. The snipers take position along the parapet overlooking the office building.

Camille and Gorman head to the door.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A catwalk encircles the warehouse. A ramp in the middle leads to a...

PLATFORM

...suspended 20 feet above the floor in the middle.

The phase cannon is huge. Set vertically, it's nestled in the platform and surrounded by a...

COMPUTER BANK

...where Stella sits holding a cat, a sword on her back.

She pets the kitty and feeds it a treat. She taps a button. A loud humming as the machine warms up.

Stella pushes her nose against the cat's.

STELLA

Who's a good little kitty?

She gets up and pulls more cat treats from her pocket.

She places the food on the plate under the cannon and sets the cat down to eat. She goes back to the control panel.

The loud CLANG of a 225 pound man landing on the platform scares the cat off.

STELLA

God damn it.

Stella pokes her head around the monitor and sees Gorman.

STELLA

Be with ya in a minute.

Stella presses a button on the control panel, and a small red light in the laser glows. The machine hums.

Stella moves around the setup and confronts Gorman.

STELLA

Louie! It's been so long!

(flat)

So happy you're here.

GORMAN

If this is what makes you happy.

She draws her sword.

STELLA

Shall we pick up where we left off?

GORMAN

Let us have the plate and we'll leave. There's no need to fight.

STELLA

Oh, there's a need, mama's boy.

Stella swings the blade.

Gorman steadies himself.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS

Camille watches Gorman confront Stella.

FIVE GUARDS in body armor rush in from below, headed straight for Camille.

CAMILLE

This is gonna hurt me a lot more than it does you.

She kicks the first in the chest. He flies into the others.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

The snipers take aim at the door across a broad lawn. A large man steps out...

ON NIMROD

...who pulls out a radio.

NIMROD

Remember. Heads and hearts. These guys get back up, but you can drop them. Heads up.

ABDULLAH (FILTERED)

Roger that.

A SWARM OF FERALS rush from the doors. Nimrod watches as...

THE SNIPERS

...aim and fire. They hit their targets hard, dropping ferals left and right. Some break through the initial wave.

A FERAL takes a bullet to the head. Another to the chest. Another to the shoulder. He gets back up and immediately takes one to the head.

NIMROD shakes his head and laughs as twenty ferals drop in a matter of seconds.

A CROWD OF FERALS gets close to the warehouse.

SNIPER ONE tosses a flash bang over the side and...

FERALS SCATTER below. *FLASHBANG!*

Some catch fire. Others lose limbs. The shots continue from above. Several more are taken out as two make it to the door.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS

The guards fighting Camille hold their own. At first.

Camille kicks ONE MAN back into another TWO.

She turns her attention to the TWO behind her.

The men attack with their batons, but Camille dodges and deflects barehanded.

She gets in close and wraps her arm around one's neck.

SNAP! She tosses him over the edge.

A kick to the head. The other one goes over the railing.

THREE LEFT. They rush Camille.

INT. WAREHOUSE - PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Gorman and Stella are in a full on ANIME FIGHT.

Gorman elbows Stella's face and CRACK! She falls.

GORMAN

Please. You don't have to do this.

STELLA

Yuh-huh!

GORMAN

So many people will die.

THWACK! She side kicks him into the railing. SCREENG! It bends under the force of his body.

STELLA

So many people already die. It's as the universe determines.

Stella leaps into the air and lands on Gorman's back. She punches him in the head.

STELLA

Some just happen to die by Stella.

She drops her elbow hard on his head. CRUNCH.

EXT. ROOF - CONTINUOUS

THWAP THWAP THWAP! Head shot. THWAP THWAP THWAP! Head shot.

ON NIMROD

NIMROD

Let's rock.

He pulls out a loong sniper rifle that looks puny in his hands. He peers through the scope and...

PSH PSH PSH! Three bullets hit the parapet below the snipers. They peer over the edge and see...

NIMROD waving.

Sniper one clenches his radio.

ABDULLAH

A little close!

NIMROD (FILTERED)

Sorry. Had to make it look real.

The snipers look at each other, relieved.

INT. PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Stella tosses Gorman over the computer banks.

He CRASHES into the cylinder, jarring the Eurylium plate loose. He picks it up.

Stella leaps and flips after Gorman.

Gorman flings the Eurylium plate at Stella, but she dodges midair, and the plate flies toward Camille...

ON THE CATWALK

...the plate SLAMS into the wall next to the door.

Camille fights the three remaining men.

SNAP! CRACKLE! POP! TWO men left.

The two grab her arms behind her back...

... she pulls her arms in hard and...

BASHES their heads together. SPLURKCH! They go down.

Looking down she sees the TWO STRAGGLERS from outside.

Camille runs over to the plate. She yanks it out...

...takes the sack off her back and puts the plate in.

The guards reach the catwalk.

Camille straps the plate to her back.

She looks over...

ON THE PLATFORM

...Gorman leaps in the air and double kicks Stella in the head.

She falls back and he's on top of her, punching as hard as he can. THWACK! BLOOD.

ON THE CATWALK

The men creep up on Camille.

She attacks. THWUD! A kick to the chin.

ON THE PLATFORM

...Gorman throws Stella into the console, knocking it completely over.

SPARKS fly from the phase cannon.

Gorman pounces on Stella.

STELLA

You stupid motherfucker.

She wraps her leg around Gorman's and kicks with the other one, SNAPPING both of his shins.

Gorman howls in pain.

Stella gets up bleeding. Drags herself to her sword.

Gorman holds his legs, crying in pain.

STELLA

Embrace your mortality, Louie.

Stella drags ass back to Gorman.

She lifts the sword high above his head.

STELLA

Don't think about consequences.

She strikes down. She pierces his skull down to the hilt.

ON THE CATWALK

...Camille grabs the last man's throat and twists her arm.

SSCRACK! She drops his body...

...turns just in time to see Stella stab Gorman.

CAMILLE

No!

INT. PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

More sparks shoot from the laser cannon.

Stella sees Camille coming for her so she bolts to the...

FAR CATWALK

...on the other side of the warehouse.

ON THE PLATFORM

...the cannon shoots to life, the bright white LIGHT cutting down into the bottom of the mechanism.

HUMMING and CRACKLING

FLAMES!

ON THE FAR CATWALK

Stella looks back. She sees the FLAMES shooting from below the platform. She looks past to the other catwalk.

ON CAMILLE

...leaps across to the...

PLATFORM

...landing several yards from Gorman's body.

The bottom of the laser explodes, sending Camille into the rail. The platform breaks apart in the middle.

Gorman falls with it.

CAMILLE

Gorman!

She looks up to see Stella leaving through the far door.

Camille gets up and leaps across half the distance to the...

FAR CATWALK

...she lands.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - GROUND - CONTINUOUS

Stella lands on the ground fifty yards away from the door.

The warehouse explodes behind her. She turns to look.

Camille flies through the air and lands on Stella.

Camille stands over Stella and pulls out her twin .45s.

She points both pistols at Stella.

CAMILLE

Die, bitch.

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM. Stella's chest rips open in a gush of blood and organs.

Stella falls limp just as Nimrod and the snipers arrive.

NIMROD

Yo, what happened?

Camille falls into him and he catches her.

CAMILLE

She killed him.

Nimrod gazes at Stella's dead body.

NIMROD

Let's get you out of here.

He coaches Camille to her feet. They run off to the rendezvous point.

EXT. HELICOPTER - MOMENTS LATER

The warehouse explodes in a fireball in the background.

Camille and Ozzie get to the helicopter and climb aboard.

Ozzie slaps the side of the chopper.

SNIPER 2

Let's go!

The helicopter lifts off.

Camille looks down at the carnage.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Andrea sits in her chair.

The candle glows on the table before her.

She rocks gently.

A knock on the door.

She takes a deep breath before getting up.

She turns on the foyer light and peers out the window before opening the door.

Camille stands before Andrea with grief scrawled on her face.

Camille falls into Andrea's arms.

ANDREA

I know, dear. It's alright.

Camille begins to cry.

Andrea wipes Camille's tears away.

ANDREA

We carry on.

Camille wipes her face.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The houselights are on.

Camille and Andrea at the kitchen table with hot chocolate.

CAMILLE  
How do you do it?

ANDREA  
Most times I don't. But for you I  
have to be strong. It's not healthy  
to spend your youth in grief.

CAMILLE  
I feel like my heart is missing.

ANDREA  
It's not missing, dear. It's simply  
guiding Gorman to the afterlife.

A knock on the door.

ANDREA  
At this hour?

She goes to the door.

Camille hears the voices...

NIMROD (O.C.)  
How ya doin', ma?

...looks up. Andrea leads Nimrod and Ozzie in.

ANDREA  
We're just sitting here drinking hot  
chocolate and reminiscing.

The men sit. Andrea gets two mugs from the cabinet.

NIMROD  
(to Camille)  
You good?

CAMILLE  
Getting there. You gonna be in  
trouble coming here?

Nimrod shrugs.

NIMROD  
Stella's gone. We're free.

Camille briefly lights up.

CAMILLE

That means...

Nimrod with a slight smile...

NIMROD

It means, fuck Ethan.

Andrea returns with the steaming mugs.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

They all finish a hearty laugh.

Their mugs are empty.

CAMILLE

And he was so talented. Every time we sparred, he showed me moves I would never have thought of. I asked him why he didn't use them on Stella. "You could beat her in five seconds flat." He said, "I don't want her to learn those moves." I never understood why she hated him so much.

OZZIE

She's just jealous.

NIMROD

Here we go!

OZZIE

No, really. He was the baby of the group, he got a lot of attention. She felt that Gorman stole her mom.

NIMROD

I don't think it was that deep. She always tried to hurt him. She thought it was funny.

ANDREA

That woman is not the child I gave birth to. The child I knew was the brightest, sweetest baby you could imagine. She loved to cuddle. Then her father got a hold of her. Now I'm sorry I didn't... It's a horrible feeling.

CAMILLE  
What is wrong with him?

ANDREA  
I don't like to psychoanalyze.

She looks at a sheepish Ozzie.

ANDREA  
If only I had known 20 years ago how  
horrible he would become.

Nimrod stands.

NIMROD  
Thanks, ma.

He hugs her.

OZZIE  
I got some packing to do!

NIMROD  
We all do.

Ozzie and Camille get up and it's a hug fest.

CAMILLE  
I wish you were my real mother.

Andrea wraps her arms around Camille. *I am, dear.*

INT. ETHAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The wide, dark wooden doors open revealing Ethan's classical  
but understated office.

Ethan takes Andrea's hands and kisses her on both cheeks.

ETHAN  
Please, sit.

She complies.

Ethan closes the doors. Faces Andrea.

ETHAN  
We've both suffered a great loss.

ANDREA  
You didn't call me here to express  
your sympathy.

ETHAN

I *am* sorry for your loss. After all these years, I do care.

Ethan sits at his desk.

ANDREA

What do you want from me? I have nothing left to give.

ETHAN

I need you to come back. Whatever Nikola's paying you-- Anything you want.

ANDREA

You expect me to come back after your daughter--

ETHAN

Our daughter--

Andrea catches her breath.

ANDREA

Killed my son? Are you insane?

He smiles.

ETHAN

Open to all possibilities!  
(serious)  
We can be a family again.

ANDREA

I can't make that decision for them. And me-- It's not about the money.

ETHAN

I don't care about the kids. Ozzie's a scrawny shit--

ANDREA

Smart as hell...

ETHAN

And Camille-- No soldier should care so much about life.

ANDREA

They're good kids, despite the influence of a madman.

Ethan rises from his seat, towering over Andrea.

ETHAN  
 You can at least return my property.  
 The Eurylium is mine.

Andrea gets up.

ANDREA  
 I won't be part of your apocalypse.

ETHAN  
 It's the future! One army to protect  
 the entire world. No more wars!

Andrea opens the door...

ANDREA  
 By killing so many.

ETHAN  
 Noble sacrifices.

ANDREA  
 My son is not a sacrifice.

...walks out...

ETHAN  
 Please. Don't leave!

...moves faster.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - SECRET LAB - NIGHT

A mortician opens a body bag. Stella. Dead.

He gets half way through the Y incision. Stella sits up.  
 Stares at the scalpel in her chest. Screams.

The mortician drops back.

CLING CLING CLANG

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - SECRET LAB - DAY

Stella strapped to a robotic dental chair. Her eyes scan.

Ethan leans over her. Her terrified eyes. His tie is tight.

ETHAN  
 Let's see what else she can handle.

The DOCTOR glances over his shoulder at Ethan.

DOCTOR  
Shall I begin?

Ethan nods.

A bone saw cuts into Stella's leg. Stella screams.

STELLA  
(echoing)  
Mommy!

ETHAN  
This is for your own good.

The leg separates.

INT. SECRET LAB - NIGHT

Ethan next to Stella, holds her hand. His tie loose.

Stella on a gurney. The doctor pieces her leg together. He holds it in place.

INT. FAILURE ROOM - NIGHT

Stella prone on a cot. Her leg healed.

Ethan sits next to her, a portable table before him. Tie off.

ETHAN  
Give me your hand.

Tears stain Stella's cheeks. She faces the wall. Reaches her arm behind her.

Ethan takes her hand. His fingers caress hers.

ETHAN  
You'll thank me someday.

A cleaver appears out of nowhere.

SCRUCK!

Stella screams. Sobs.

Ethan pulls Stella's hand off.

STELLA  
I want mom.

*\*sigh\**

ETHAN

This is going to take some time.

Ethan offers Stella's hand to the doctor.

ETHAN

No more anesthetic.

The door slams behind Ethan.

INT. SECRET LAB - NIGHT

Stella lies on a table. THREE SURGEONS surround her.

ETHAN

It's been six months. Show me.

Limb's separated at the sockets. Shredded flesh.

Stella cries...

STELLA

Mommy! Where are you!

The surgeons wait for Ethan's order.

ETHAN

Do her spine next.

The surgeons replace the limbs.

INT. FAILURE ROOM - DAY

Stella lies on her cot facing the wall.

Ethan holds her hand behind her.

ETHAN

Who is here with you?

Stella whimpers...

STELLA

You are.

Ethan raises the blade.

INT. SECRET LAB - DAY

SUPER: "ELEVEN MONTHS AFTER DEATH"

Stella on a table drawn and quartered, her head removed, held by a surgeon.

Ethan nods. The crew holds her pieces in place. She heals.

ETHAN  
Cut out her heart.

The surgeon looks at him. Ethan glares.

The surgeon proceeds to open Stella's chest. Once the rib-spreaders are in place, he cuts the heart free, holds it up.

Ethan nods.

The surgeon places the heart in Stella's chest cavity. It immediately begins to heal and start beating.

ETHAN  
Try it again. Keep it out.

The surgeon cuts the heart free and places it on a sterile steel tray by the table.

Stella gasps. She passes out and dies.

The surgeon removes the rib-spreaders.

Stella's wound heals slowly.

LATER

Ethan's tie is off and shirt unbuttoned.

SURGEON  
Shall I put it back now?

Ethan gazes at his dead daughter.

ETHAN  
She's useless to me, now. But this  
is good news for the next class.

STELLA GASPS TO LIFE! Everyone turns and looks. The surgeon places his hand on her heart while Stella looks around dazed.

STELLA  
Daddy?

SURGEON  
She has a heartbeat.

Ethan's grin stretches across his face.

ETHAN  
There's daddy's little girl.

EXT. LAKE FRONT - BEACH - DAY

A group of men, mostly black, play beach football. Gorman tosses a long ball to DEVONTA (28), his best friend.

Devonta goes for it. He reaches his arms out, and BAM! The bad boy of the bunch, TYRONE (20s) cold cocks him.

TYRONE  
This is *my* beach, homo.

Tyrone picks up the ball and runs it back.

Gorman looks on in disappointment.

EXT. LAKE FRONT - PIER - LATER

A rotting pier. Large rocks in the water next to it. Water littered with fast food wrappers and spent needles. Gorman and Devonta sit on the rocks fishing.

Devonta casts his line.

DEVONTA  
Just like heaven.

Gorman casts his line. They share a fist bump.

TYRONE (O.S.)  
No faggots on my pier!

Tyrone and his gang of five slither through the rocks at the edge of the water.

Devonta turns around, *Noooo!*

TYRONE  
You hear me? Huh? Faggot?

Gorman turns to Devonta.

GORMAN  
Let's go.

He pulls on Devonta's line. Devonta relents.

They climb down the rocks to the edge of the water and walk past Tyrone and his gang, their heads down. The gang laughs.

TYRONE

No homo's on my pier. Don't ever let me see you around here again, Devonta. That goes for your boyfriend, too.

Ten feet away, Gorman stops and turns.

TYRONE

What? You got something to say?

Gorman shakes his head and turns to follow Devonta away.

EXT. PARADISE HEIGHTS - NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Dilapidated houses with broken chain link fences. Crab grass or dirt for lawns.

Devonta and Gorman walk to the store.

EXT. BODEGA - CONTINUOUS

Wire mesh on the windows, painted wooden signs.

Devonta opens the metal security door.

Gorman steps through the regular door. Devonta follows.

INT. BODEGA - CONTINUOUS

Gorman heads for the soft drinks.

Devonta eyes the chips.

DEVONTA

You could have taken him.

Gorman scans the bottles.

GORMAN

I can't.

Devonta finds what he's been searching for.

DEVONTA

Why not? You said you was trained.

Gorman spies his drink. He pulls it from the rack.

GORMAN

I left it for a reason.

They meet in the middle.

DEVONTA  
Still, you coulda taken them.

EXT. GORMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Gorman and Devonta chill on the sagging porch.

DEVONTA  
You ever miss your mom?

Gorman shrugs his head.

DEVONTA  
You should call her.

GORMAN  
She thinks I'm dead. It's better for  
her this way. They won't bother her.

Serious...

DEVONTA  
Boy, don't make me slap you.

Devonta offers Gorman his chips.

GORMAN  
You don't understand that life.

DEVONTA  
A'ight, brother. It's your mama.

Gorman hands over his soda.

GORMAN  
I wouldn't mind fishing again.

Devonta tips the can to Gorman. Sips.

INT. CARSON COMPLEX - RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

A sparse lobby. Round. A semi-circular desk on the back wall  
with a RECEPTIONIST.

A WOMAN enters and places a large briefcase on the desk. The  
only thing notable about her are her square-toed black  
motorcycle boots. They don't fit the business outfit.

WOMAN  
What level is the lab on?

RECEPTIONIST  
Basement. I.D.?

The woman hands over her badge. The receptionist examines it.  
She holds up the I.D. A picture of a black woman.

RECEPTIONIST  
Uh...excuse me.

WOMAN  
Yeah, I should have picked someone  
who looked more like me.

The woman opens the briefcase and pulls out a .45.

BLAM. Bye bye receptionist.

It's Stella.

She straps a dual holster around her waist. She takes out a  
crumpled black sack and straps it across her chest.

She tries to open the security door, Locked.

She places the dead receptionist's hand firmly on a red  
button. A continuous BUZZ.

Stella opens the door.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Stella moves down the hallway grooving to unheard music.

An OFFICE WORKER holding chaotic papers rushes down the hall.  
He sees Stella with her guns and stops cold.

Stella stands with her hands off her hips. She quick draws.

BLAM. Papers fly.

Heads poke out doors that quickly slam shut and lock.

Stella stops at the...

ELEVATOR

...presses the button, and reads the guide next to it.

"CAMILLE PARKER: 5" in removable letters.

Stella vanishes behind elevator doors.

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

Several TECHNICIANS bandy about working to a frenzy.

Stella reappears in the basement. Pulls the twin .45s from their holsters and makes her way through, shooting everyone that comes across her path.

STELLA  
 Don't mind me.  
 (POP!)  
 Just looking for something.

POP! She nonchalantly shoots a lab tech.

STELLA  
 My dad needs it...  
 (POP!)  
 ...for some stupid experiment...  
 (POP POP!)  
 ...with some stupid toy.

At the far end of the lab sits a table with the Eurylium plate attended by two TECHS.

STELLA  
 That's it!

Stella shoots the first tech. The second pleads...

TECH  
 Oh, god! Please don't!

STELLA  
 Do you have any idea how powerful  
 this stuff is?

She pulls him close, pointing the barrel at his chest.

STELLA  
 We're all soldiers in an unseen war.

BOOM! BLOOD spews.

Stella places the plate in the sack on her back.

INT. CAMILLE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Camille enters grades into a computer with a clear monitor. A MAIL CLERK drops a letter on her desk. From Jan Bowman. Camille stabs a letter opener into the envelope. SSSLITTTT

The relevant parts of the letter: "BOBBY LOVES YOUR CLASS... HE'S JUST NOT COMFORTABLE... WE'D LIKE TO BRING HIM HOME..."

CAMILLE  
No, not Bobby.

A "ding" echoes down the silent hall.

MAIL CLERK (O.C.)  
Can I help you?

BOOM!

Camille looks up. *I know that sound.* She unlocks the bottom drawer of her desk revealing...

A PISTOL

Another surprise...

STELLA (O.C.)  
Long time no see.

*HOLY SHIT!* Stella leans in the doorway.

CAMILLE  
You're dead!

STELLA  
Worse! You think an autopsy sucks, try a vivisection. And you're the one who did it.

Stella eases into the room...

STELLA  
Where is he?

CAMILLE  
I don't know who--

STELLA  
Louie! Dad wants to see him.

CAMILLE  
You killed him.

STELLA  
You seriously said that to my face.

...and into the chair...

CAMILLE

I don't know how you survived, but  
Gorman didn't.

STELLA

Did you see the body?

CAMILLE

Not since the explosion that  
incinerated him.

STELLA

See, I don't remember that. I was  
dead at the time.

CAMILLE

Even if I did know--

STELLA

Yeah, yeah. You wouldn't tell me.

...rests her elbows on the desk...

STELLA

You know you can't win this.

...swiftly swipes a letter opener...

CAMILLE

I don't--

...and before Camille can process it, Stella STABS her left  
hand...

...the Glock just out of reach.

STELLA

Now, before you go reaching for that  
gun.

Stella twists the blade...

STELLA

I'm gonna ask you one more time.

...turns the screws...

STELLA

Where. Is. Louie.

CAMILLE

(grunting and reaching)  
Fuck. You.

STELLA

Let's see if you come back to life.

...rips the letter opener from Camille's hand.

Camille grabs the Glock and fires at Stella. Return fire from Stella while ducking for cover.

They hit each other in the shoulder. Big deal.

Camille moves around the desk. Stella readies herself.

Camille fires off a couple more rounds. THEWPF THEWPF into Stella's chest.

Stella unloads.

Camille crashes through...

THE WINDOW

Stella busts ass over and looks down.

STELLA

Aw, ya little bitch.

She fires once. She watches a cop car in the distance.

STELLA

Who called the cops?

She races out the door.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The elevator doors open. Stella sashays out. Doesn't see...

Nimrod in a suit coming down the hall.

*Tell me those weren't gunshots.*

*Wait. Is that...*

NIMROD

...Stella?

Stella stops and turns. *Dude!*

STELLA

Holy shit, how are ya!

NIMROD

How?

He draws his gun.

STELLA

Oh, long story. You haven't seen  
Louie, have you?

NIMROD

You...

He aims.

Stella quick draws and fires.

One misses. One grazes his shoulder.

Nimrod ducks behind the corner.

Stella races toward the exit.

Nimrod pops out POP! POP! POP!

The bullets bounce off the Eurylium plate strapped to  
Stella's back. She busts through the door.

Nimrod starts after Stella.

*Wait... Camille!*

INT. CAMILLE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Blood crusts on the desk, the chair, the floor.

A "ding" echoes down the silent hall.

Nimrod creeps in and sees the blood and...

THE BROKEN WINDOW

...bathed in crusty blood. He peers out.

Nothing but a puddle of coagulated blood. A blood trail  
leading across the grass. Stopping at the drive-around where  
it pools on the asphalt. Tire marks. Worried.

Nimrod, *She's OK.*

INT. KINGSTON HOSPITAL - ICU - NIGHT

An oxygen mask covers Camille's lips and nose.

Andrea and Nikola worry by the bed.

NIKOLA

The witnesses say it was one woman.  
Nimrod says it was Stella.

ANDREA

How is that possible?

NIKOLA

Maybe Ethan has a new class. Maybe  
he's been working on cloning. Who  
knows with him?

ANDREA

But it's only been a year.

Camille stirs and coughs. Mouths *Stella!*

Andrea leans over Camille.

NIKOLA

Maybe he has a new protocol--

*Shush!* Camille whispers.

CAMILLE

Stella...

NIKOLA

So Nimrod wasn't imagining--

ANDREA

Impossible.

Camille coughs. Passes out.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - HALLWAY - DAY

Ethan strolls the halls with Stella.

STELLA

Neither of them have seen him.

ETHAN

You retrieved the Eurylium. That's  
what matters. Now you can focus on  
the boy.

STELLA

You don't need him. You have me.

ETHAN

Not good enough. I need him for the  
next generation of the Regenerant.

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

With his DNA, it can be twice as powerful as R-11. Children aging twice as fast. No more ferals.

The hall leads them to a door marked "PHASE CANNON".

ETHAN

Besides, I don't want my DNA floating around in other people.

STELLA

Yes, sir. How will I find him?

*Hmmm...*

ETHAN

Notify my contact at the precinct.

Ethan opens the door and disappears.

EXT. LAKE FRONT - DAY

Devonta and Gorman recline on heavy stones.

DEVONTA

I love these sunsets.

Gorman gazes into the horizon. Devonta looks at him.

DEVONTA

Thinking of your mom?

GORMAN

It's peaceful.

DEVONTA

I bet she misses you.

Gorman stares at the sun's elongated reflection on the water.

GORMAN

I died.

DEVONTA

She still loves you. Wait...

GORMAN

Like for real. An explosion.

DEVONTA

Dawg, that's impossible.

*Nope.*

Gorman closes his eyes and tilts his head back.

GORMAN  
What do I tell her?

Gorman drops his head in frustration.

INT. WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT (FLASH BACK)

The platform pins Gorman's corpse.

The explosion incinerates everything.

Only fire remains.

GORMAN (V.O.)  
The pain? The horror of witnessing  
your own death?

EXT. MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - NIGHT

A large but not deep hole in the ground. Gorman inside lying  
in the fetal position. White garments.

GORMAN (V.O.)  
How I woke up someplace else?

Gorman rises. Steps down a path through the trees.

EXT. PARADISE HEIGHTS - OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

The dark skyline blocking the lights of the city.

GORMAN (V.O.)  
At home in a world without her?

Gorman steps through the shadows. Scanning.

TYRONE (V.O.)  
What the fuck did I say?!

EXT. LAKE FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Tyrone pulls Devonta up and tosses him to the side.

Gorman moves to get up. Tyrone lifts a strong finger. *Stay!* A  
short but stocky gangster stands between Gorman and Tyrone.

GANGSTER  
You don't want none of this.

Tyrone goes to Devonta, held up by the gang.

TYRONE  
I told you, faggot!

Tyrone punches Devonta hard in the gut. Devonta retches.

Gorman climbs from the rocks and watches. Devonta lifts his head and looks straight at him, his eyes pleading.

BAP! A punch in the grill. CRACK! Another to the head. Devonta falls to the ground.

Tyrone turns to Gorman.

TYRONE  
You a homo? You want some, too?

Gorman shakes his head slowly.

TYRONE  
Then get the fuck up on outta here!

Tyrone grabs Devonta and flings him toward Gorman.

TYRONE  
And take your bitch boy with you.

Gorman put his arm under Devonta's and carries him away.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea sits with the gang around the coffee table.

ANDREA  
I saw the video, and I can't believe my eyes.

NIKOLA  
How is she alive? The R-11 isn't supposed to resurrect the dead. Maybe Ethan developed a new version?

Camille barely breathes.

CAMILLE  
She's convinced Gorman's alive.

OZZIE  
Then it can't be a new version. She wouldn't assume if--

CAMILLE

But why hasn't he contacted us?

NIMROD

He always talked about it with me.  
Maybe he took the opportunity to get  
away from it. All of it.

ANDREA

We have to find him. Bring him home.

NIKOLA

He'll be hard to find.

OZZIE

Aren't we registered as weapons?

NIKOLA

Ozzie! You brilliant bastard! It's a  
long shot, but I can scan the FBI  
database. Facial recognition.

The room lifts. *He's coming home.*

EXT. GHETTO STREET - DAY

A cop car crawls down the street behind Gorman and Devonta.

INT. COP CAR - CONTINUOUS

TWO COPS eye the men hard.

DRIVER COP

That's him. The big guy.

PASSENGER COP

Are you sure?

DRIVER COP

I busted him once for W.W.B.

*Confused.*

DRIVER COP

Walking while black.

Funny. Real fucking funny.

PASSENGER COP

Should we stop 'em?

DRIVER COP

Naw. Let's see where they go.

EXT. PARADISE HEIGHTS - NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - LATER

Gorman and Devonta return down their street home.

DEVONTA

You coulda done something.

GORMAN

I'm sorry. I--

DEVONTA

Can't protect your friend?

GORMAN

I was angry. I don't know what I would have done.

DEVONTA

At least now I know where I stand.

Gorman puts his arm around Devonta.

GORMAN

Do you want to visit me in prison for life?

Devonta struggles with this.

DEVONTA

I'm just sayin'.

GORMAN

Next time.

Devonta's phone rings.

DEVONTA

Hold up.

He slides a thin piece of plastic rolled around his wrist. He talks into it.

DEVONTA

What up?

(pause)

Oh, shit! Sorry, momma!

...end call.

DEVONTA

I'm sorry, bro. I locked my mom out.

Gorman laughs. Devonta sprints.

The cop car pulls up to Gorman's house. Gorman meets it.

The cops get out of the car. The driver comes across and stops Gorman. He's calm. The other cop, not so much.

DRIVER COP

Why's your friend running?

GORMAN

Why you asking?

DRIVER COP

Don't get smart. Hands on the hood.

The cop kicks Gorman's legs apart.

The second cop frisks Gorman.

PASSENGER COP

You have any weapons on you?  
Anything that might hurt me?

GORMAN

No, sir.

PASSENGER COP

Any drugs?

GORMAN

I don't do drugs, sir.

Of course the cop finds the baggy.

PASSENGER COP

Turn around.

The cop whips Gorman around. The baggy.

PASSENGER COP

What's this?

He opens and smells it.

GORMAN

Weed is legal, sir.

The cop crumples the baggy on the hood.

DRIVER COP  
We'll decide that.

PASSENGER COP  
Looks like we've got a dangerous  
criminal here.

GORMAN  
Yo! I was just walking home!

Gorman's house is right there!

DRIVER COP  
Who lives here with you?

GORMAN  
Nobody.

The passenger cop steps back and draws his gun.

PASSENGER COP  
Put your hands out.

The driver draws.

Gorman nudges his hands to the side.

GORMAN  
Please. Let me call my mom. She'll--

The passenger fires TWO SHOTS. The driver responds with SIX.

Gorman crashes to the sidewalk. Blood oozes.

PASSENGER COP  
How are we gonna explain this one to  
the sergeant?

DRIVER COP  
It's under control.

*How on earth...?*

The driver eases a loaded .38 from the glove box...

...into Gorman's hand.

Gorman twists, groaning.

DRIVER COP  
It was a clean shoot. Let's get him  
to the hospital and let Ethan Antrix  
know we got him.

The passenger cuffs Gorman.

The cops load Gorman into the back.

They don't see the PEOPLE watching and recording.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Stella leans on the roof of a car spying. She saw everything.

She unrolls her phone from her wrist...

...waits...

STELLA

Yes, I'll have him tomorrow. Some  
idiot cops did a number on him.

(pause)

Still doing recon.

...taps it again.

*Stupid cops.*

INT. CARSON COMPLEX - LAB - DAY

Blood stains the lab.

Ozzie operates a computer with Camille by his side.

OZZIE

Holy shit!

CAMILLE

Did you find him?

OZZIE

It's not his name.

CAMILLE

Is there a picture?

Gorman's mugshot appears on the screen.

CAMILLE

Holy shit.

OZZIE

Paradise Heights.

Camille, *Oh, no!*

EXT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - DAY

Stella pounds on Devonta's door.

Devonta lowers his voice and booms...

DEVONTA (O.S.)  
Who is it!

STELLA  
My name's Stella. Your friend Gorman  
was shot by the cops.

The locks slide. Door opens. Devonta peers through the crack.

DEVONTA  
I don't know who that is.

STELLA  
Then why'd you open the door?

Those twin .45s on Stella's hips...

DEVONTA  
I told you. I don't know no  
"Gorman".

STELLA  
Six foot black guy? Built like a  
god? Nineteen but looks thirty?

DEVONTA  
Sorry.

STELLA  
Dude, just open the door.

...taps her fingers on...

DEVONTA  
What about them?

...the guns.

Stella eyes the phone on Devonta's wrist.

STELLA  
Hey, is that the X-90? I have that  
one, too.

Devonta looks at his wrist.

DEVONTA

91.

Stella takes her holsters off. Lays the guns down.

STELLA  
That is so cool. I've always  
wondered how much better the 91 is.

Devonta unlatches the door and opens it.

DEVONTA  
Lemme see yours.

Stella smiles.

STELLA  
See? We're friends, now!

INT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Stella sits deep in the couch. Devonta in the chair.

Stella exhales a plume of smoke.

STELLA  
Sure, he feels worse pain. But he's  
loved. Everybody wants Louie.

DEVONTA  
I feel you.

She passes the blunt back.

STELLA  
Do you have any idea what it's like  
not to be loved?

Devonta exhales smoke.

DEVONTA  
I've always had family...

STELLA  
It's like you're cast away into the  
darkness. Alone.

DEVONTA  
I can't imagine. How--

Stella slaps Devonta on the knee.

STELLA  
I entertain myself. That's the key.

EXT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - LATER

Devonta sees Stella to the door.

STELLA

You just give me a call when you see him. We need to catch up, anyway.

They fist bump, and Stella's off.

INT. JAILHOUSE - CELL - DAY

A half naked Gorman dresses in front of an OFFICER.

A wide bandage around Gorman's chest. Blood seeping through.

OFFICER

You heal pretty quick.

GORMAN

(groaning)

It runs in the family.

OFFICER

Hurry up. Your sister's waiting.

*Sister?*

EXT. JAILHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Camille leaps into Gorman's arms, wrapping around his neck as he pushes through the metal door. He winces.

CAMILLE

Don't ever do that again.

Gorman lifts her off her feet.

EXT. GORMAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Gorman and Camille sit on the sagging steps of the porch.

GORMAN

It was my only way out.

CAMILLE

Your mom got you out.

GORMAN

And Nikola got me back in. Tell my mom I love her, but I can't--

STELLA (O.S.)  
 (singing)  
*Why do birds suddenly appear  
 Every time...you are near?*

Stella walks through the gate.

STELLA  
 (singing)  
*Just like me, they long to be...*

She steps to Camille and Gorman. They stand.

Stella makes eye contact with Gorman.

STELLA  
 (singing slowly)  
*Close to youuu.*

GORMAN  
 What do you want?

Gorman lowers down the steps...

STELLA  
 A fight. To the death. Oh, and dad  
 wants your blood.

...to Stella.

GORMAN  
 No more fighting.

BLAM! A bullet rips through Stella. She drops to her knees.  
 Nimrod still aims his rifle at her.

NIMROD  
 Ha ha! Gotcha.

Camille grabs Gorman's hand and pulls him over Stella and out  
 the gate where a large van waits with its motor running.

Ozzie pulls a shotgun from the passenger seat.

Camille slides the side door open and jumps in.

Stella staggers out the gate, guns blazing. They all miss.

KABOOM! KABOOM! Shot shreds Stella's chest and stomach.

She falls face first. Gasping...

STELLA  
 Your ass is mine you little shit!

The driver door slams shut. The van speeds away.

INT. VAN - LATER

Nimrod drives. Ozzie rides shotgun.

Camille tends to Gorman.

CAMILLE  
Are you hurt?

GORMAN  
Nah. She didn't get me. You?

CAMILLE  
No.

NIMROD  
We're fine, too!

CAMILLE  
Thank you, Rod!

OZZIE  
Wait'll we get you home. Ma will--

GORMAN  
I can't.

OZZIE  
You can't let her keep thinking  
you're dead.

GORMAN  
You can tell her.

OZZIE  
Gorman, please--

CAMILLE  
Ozzie! Hush! He doesn't want to be a  
part of this. Like Bobby...

NIMROD  
Bobby's leaving? Dammit.

Camille places her hand on Gorman's.

CAMILLE  
We love you, Gorman. We just want  
what's best for you.

GORMAN

I have a life of my own. I'm happy.  
I can't do that and hold onto us.  
Not when you're constantly at war.

Camille's eyes plead.

GORMAN

I'm fine. If I'm ever not fine,  
you'll hear from me. I promise.

Her understanding overwhelms her love.

CAMILLE

Pull over.

NIMROD

Not in this neighborhood.

GORMAN

It's not that bad.

NIMROD

Easy to say when you've been dead.

Nimrod spins the wheel sending everyone off balance.

NIMROD

I'll take you to my favorite place.

Nimrod navigates traffic.

EXT. MUSEUM - LATER

The van parks in a no parking zone in front of the Museum of Natural History.

EXT. MUSEUM - VAN - CONTINUOUS

The door slides open. Gorman gets out.

NIMROD

I love this place. You'll be safe  
here. Take care, brother.

Nimrod offers his hand...

OZZIE

We miss you.

Camille grips Gorman. She whispers...

CAMILLE

Goodbye.

He squeezes and whispers in her ear...

GORMAN

You'll always be family.

Soft tears.

Gorman kisses her forehead. Happiness.

EXT. LAKE FRONT - DAY

Gorman and Devonta chill on the rocks. Here comes Tyrone.

TYRONE

Motherfucker.

Gorman faces off with him. The gang surrounds them.

Tyrone pulls out a switchblade knife SCHWICK!

Gorman hauls off and punches Tyrone in the jaw. Tyrone's head nearly does a three sixty. His face is shattered. He drops.

GANG MEMBER

The fuck did you do?

One of the gang members checks Tyrone's pulse.

GANG MEMBER 2

Holy shit! You killed him!

Gorman steps forward. They step back.

Gorman returns to sit with Devonta.

The gang slinks away.

GORMAN

I guess sometimes you have to do bad  
to do right.

Devonta looks up in awe.

DEVONTA

Call your mom!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - LATER

Gorman accompanies Devonta to the store.

ACROSS THE STREET

Stella spies.

EXT. TRAIN STOP - DAY

A subway train WHINES to a halt. Gorman gets in the last car.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - CONTINUOUS

The doors close on an empty car.

The back door opens.

Stella steps in. She wears a small canister with a hose and nozzle on her back. A flamethrower.

STELLA

You seriously didn't think I'd be watching you?

GORMAN

I was hoping you'd be reasonable.

STELLA

Dad wants to talk to you. He doesn't care if you're alive when he does.

Stella points the nozzle and pulls the trigger.

A massive PLUME shoots out.

Gorman ducks until the flame stops. He gets up and runs through the door to the next car.

Stella gives chase.

INT. NEXT CAR - CONTINUOUS

People. Quite a few. Gorman runs through as fast as he can, but he trips over their feet.

MORE FIRE bursts from behind lighting people on fire.

Everyone panics and rushes toward the front. A logjam.

Gorman goes to a window and kicks it out.

STELLA

Get your black ass back here!

Stella pulls the trigger, and more people go up in flames.

Gorman climbs out the window.

Stella blasts him. His legs catch fire.

EXT. SUBWAY CAR - CONTINUOUS

Gorman climbs on top of the car as fast as he can.

Screaming as flames shoot out the window. He makes it out.

He pats himself down, singeing his hands and causing tears.

A loud CRASH and a metal door bounces onto the tracks.

Stella peeks around and sees nothing. She climbs.

Gorman crawls toward the front, low to the car.

Stella pulls herself up even with the roof.

The subway emerges from the underground into daylight.

EXT. TRAIN TRACK - CONTINUOUS

Gorman gets up and moves toward Stella, still climbing.

GORMAN

I'm not going back.

STELLA

I know you won't fight.

GORMAN

Then why won't you leave me alone?

Stella climbs over the edge onto the roof. The fuel line catches and disconnects. Fuel leaks.

STELLA

Because I can't sleep knowing you exist. I'll find a way to make you fight. The only reason I don't take mom is because dad won't let me. The fool. He's still in love with her.

Gorman faces off.

GORMAN

That's his problem.

STELLA  
It's your problem. I'll be happy to  
see you both dead.

GORMAN  
You're not getting your way today.

He leaps and lands on Stella. Stella falls back.

STELLA  
You owe me!

GORMAN  
I owe you nothing.

STELLA  
You owe me everything!

BIFF! She strikes Gorman in the eye.

GORMAN  
Just tell me what you want!

STELLA  
If you don't know, I'm not gonna  
tell you.

Stella steps to kick but slips on the fuel. She slides off  
the roof and hangs on with one hand.

Gorman reaches down for her.

Stella flails her arm reaching for him.

GORMAN  
I will not play games with death.

Gorman grabs her wrist and twists it off the car.

Stella falls.

Her leg gets caught under the wheel, severing it.

The train travels on while Stella rolls to a sudden stop.  
That really hurt.

STELLA  
Motherfucker!

She props herself up and stands on her good leg. She hops  
down the track grimacing, looking for the severed leg.

## STELLA

When I find my foot, I'm gonna kick  
your ass with it! It doesn't even  
need to be reattached. Just shove it  
straight up your ass!

She finds it and sits next to the track.

She places the cut ends of her leg against each other and  
presses them together, grimacing.

She relaxes and holds her leg in place, watching the train.

## ON THE TRAIN

It stops with Gorman on the front car. The doors slide open  
and panicking people pour out. Gorman watches for a moment.

He looks at Stella in the distance.

Gorman turns, leaps off the subway car and runs for it.

## EXT. LAKE FRONT - NIGHT

Gorman gazes at the stars while sitting on a stone.

The stars shine in his eyes.

## GORMAN (V.O.)

I don't know what I'm afraid of.

Clouds roll in on a stiff wind.

The stars dim and disappear.

## GORMAN (V.O.)

I've already been dead.

Lightning dances in the clouds.

Rain drops fall.

## GORMAN (V.O.)

Am I afraid of living forever?

Gorman bathes in the rain.

## GORMAN (V.O.)

Or am I afraid of dying?

A lightning bolt strikes Gorman. The energy sets him aglow.

GORMAN

Mom?

For a moment, the water reflects blue light.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Andrea sleeps in the middle of her bed.

A man sits on the edge. It's Gorman.

He places his hand on her shoulder and gently nudges her.

GORMAN

Mom?

Andrea's eyes flutter open then widen.

She wraps her arms around him.

ANDREA

I know this is real.

He wraps his arms around her.

ANDREA

I was just dreaming about you.

Andrea holds Gorman the way a mother should.

INT. TRAINING FLOOR - DAY

Light jazz music.

Dozens of large, redundant MEN surround Stella in the bare training room.

The men attack. Stella fights viciously, tearing men apart with her bare hands.

More men pull guns. She draws, and there's a firefight. She takes bullets, but she doesn't give a fuck.

Stella finishes off the last with a bullet to the face.

A WOMAN in a suit walks in.

WOMAN

Miss Antrix, your father would like to see you.

Stella wipes her brow with a towel and holsters her gun. She tosses the towel at the woman on her way out.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ethan walks Stella down the hall to the nursery. They stop at the wide window. Ten cribs, eight with babies in them.

Stella puts her face to the glass.

ETHAN

We've started a new batch of test subjects. Look here.

A NURSE brings a baby to the window. It has an open wound on its belly. Before their eyes, the wound heals.

ETHAN

They heal even faster than you.

Stella clutches her wrist and glances at him.

ETHAN

But it'll be twenty years before they're ready to stand by my side. I need the boy's DNA to age them, and his blood is the key.

Ethan pulls Stella along the hall to another window to a makeshift operating room. TWO DOCTORS stand over a table, blood on their gloves and gowns.

Ethan taps on the window. One doctor wheels a metal tray to the window. On the tray in a pan of blood, a baby's head.

Even Stella is appalled. She looks away in disgust.

The doctor shakes his head no.

ETHAN

We have found a weakness that you were lucky enough not to discover.

Ethan waves the doctor back and turns to Stella.

He turns Stella's face to the window. Her eyes quiver.

ETHAN

You get the idea.

STELLA

Yes, daddy.

Her eyes glisten.

INT. LAB - MOMENTS LATER

The door slides open. Ethan leads Stella in. A technician wheels a cart to them. A sterile sheet hangs over the edges.

ETHAN  
A new toy for you.

Ethan pulls the sheet off to reveal a SWORD of white metal.

Stella runs her fingers along the molded handle. She picks it up and steps back. She swings it and holds it before herself.

STELLA  
The balance is amazing. And the weight. I can feel it in my hands.

ETHAN  
Forged from a solid piece of Eurylium. Heavy and sharp.

Stella swoops the sword in a figure eight.

STELLA  
This is badass.

ETHAN  
Take his head. Bring the rest to me. Otherwise, it will be your head on a platter. Do you understand?

Stella withdraws the sword and looks up at him.

STELLA  
Yes, daddy.

One more huge swipe, feigning a neck slice.

EXT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - DAY

Stella spies across the street. Gorman exits Devonta's house. They bro hug, and Gorman walks up the street.

Stella unrolls her phone from her wrist...

...eyes Gorman...

...taps the screen...

INT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Devonta answers his phone.

DEVONTA  
Hello?

INTERCUT

STELLA  
Hey, it's Stella. Sorry to bother you, but I'm really anxious about finding my brother. You haven't seen him, have you?

DEVONTA  
Naw. Not in a minute.

STELLA  
That's a shame. I was really starting to like you, Devonta.

She slaps her phone around her wrist.

Gorman catches a bus.

EXT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - DAY

Stella sets a gas can down and knocks on Devonta's door.

Devonta deepens his voice and answers loudly...

DEVONTA  
Who is it!

STELLA  
Seriously? Is that, like, your thing? Open up.

The deadbolts slide open and the door opens a crack, the chain holding it closed.

DEVONTA  
What you want?

STELLA  
I don't have time for this shit.

She pushes on the door. The chain snaps. The door smacks Devonta in the face.

Stella glides past. She pulls her sword.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Ethan towers. Andrea sits up.

He holds a gun in his right hand. It twitches.

ETHAN

Please, Andi. Send Gorman home where he belongs.

ANDREA

I can't and won't make him fight.

ETHAN

Maybe I can talk sense into him.

Andrea stands up.

Ethan lifts the gun.

ETHAN

Please, sit.

ANDREA

There is no way in hell I'm selling out my son. Not to you, not to Stella, not to anybody. He doesn't want to fight, so you may as well pull that trigger because I'm not asking him shit.

She gets right into his face.

ANDREA

Or put the fucking thing away.

Ethan pauses for a long moment before he lowers the gun.

ETHAN

My feelings for you betray me.

He puts on his hat and leaves.

ETHAN

You can see yourself out.

Andrea breathes a sigh of relief.

EXT. GORMAN'S HOUSE - SUNSET

Gorman stands before the smoldering ruins of his house. The psycho burned it down.

EXT. DEVONTA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gorman pounds on the door.

No answer.

He pounds again.

GORMAN

Tae?

He stops pounding.

GORMAN

Tae, are you OK?

Gorman thrusts his palm into the door and it flies open.

Devonta's corpse on the floor. His head a few feet away.

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Gorman walks to his house.

EXT. GORMAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gorman passes his house. Stella stands in the gateway.

STELLA

Why are you avoiding this? This is  
your life here!

GORMAN

Why are you forcing it?

STELLA

Humanity's salvation is at stake.

She quick draws but Gorman grabs her wrist and twists.

GORMAN

You mean to save humanity?

STELLA

I mean to destroy it.

Stella drops the gun and spin kicks Gorman into next Tuesday.

Gorman flies back twenty feet. Stella pounces.

STELLA

Starting with you.

Gorman lifts his leg while on his back and shoves.

Stella flies through the air.

SPLACKNG! Into the gate.

Gorman charges. He punches Stella and SPRACKS! her face open.

GORMAN

This is not what you want.

Stella puts her knee into Gorman's groin and lifts him off her, tossing him back behind her head.

Gorman lands on his back but gets up quickly. Stella stands facing him.

STELLA

Oh, it is.

Stella charges.

Gorman pulls a move on Stella that she's never conceived. The move is so sudden and fierce, it takes her breath away even before she crashes hard on her back.

Gorman reaches down and pulls the other gun.

Stella looks up gasping for air.

GORMAN

This is for Devonta.

He unloads. Her heart disintegrates.

BOOM! Head shot.

GORMAN

Come back and it's more of the same.

Gorman tosses the gun next to Stella's fresh corpse.

EXT. CAMILLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Gorman and Camille sit on her porch swing.

CAMILLE

I'm sorry about your friend.

GORMAN

He was the only family I had besides you guys.

CAMILLE  
Think Stella will come back?

Distant.

CAMILLE  
I'm proud of you for standing by  
your principles. I know how you feel  
about killing.

He kisses the top of her head.

GORMAN  
I think we should go away. We can be  
together. She'll never find us.

Camille stops the swing.

CAMILLE  
I just bought a house.

GORMAN  
I've never been as happy as I was  
the last year. Come with me.

Camille ponders deeply and quickly.

CAMILLE  
Your mom has to come, too.

She restarts the swing.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Ethan sits in a chair with a chess board to his side,  
contemplating his next move. A fire blazes in the fireplace.

STELLA  
He won't listen to reason, daddy.

ETHAN  
What did I say about returning?

Ethan moves a piece. Stella sits.

STELLA  
I have a plan. You may not like it.

Ethan stops playing and glares ice at Stella.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Andrea and Nikola sit at the kitchen table drinking coffee.

NIKOLA  
I'm working on Eurylium body armor  
for the kids. It's close.

ANDREA  
Gorman asked me to move away with  
him and Camille.

NIKOLA  
You're leaving me?

ANDREA  
I have my family again.

Nikola touches her hand. *What should I say?*

NIKOLA  
I'm happy for you.

Andrea's phone beeps and glows on the table. She unrolls it.

ANDREA  
Ugh. Hang on.

She answers...

ANDREA  
You have nothing to say to me.  
(pause)  
We are leaving, and that's final.  
Now stop calling me before I send my  
son over to kick your ass!

...she rolls it closed. Shrugs...

ANDREA  
Ethan.

Nikola lifts his mug to Andrea. She reciprocates.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

An operator, THOMAS (mid-20s) mans the console controlling  
the laser on the other side of the glass pane in front of  
him.

Ethan stands behind looking at his phone. He crumples it up  
and tosses it into a trash bin.

ETHAN  
How much longer?

THOMAS

We're waiting for her to power up.  
Thirty seconds, sir.

Ethan looks through the window to see Stella by the cannon.

INT. CANNON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stella carries a fat gray tabby into the room and places it on the Eurylium plate inside the cannon chamber.

She places a handful of food in front of it.

Ethan speaks over the intercom.

ETHAN (FILTERED)

What the hell are you doing?

STELLA

Feeding the cat.

Stella pets the cat. It eats, oblivious.

ETHAN (FILTERED)

You can't do that here. We're testing the cannon.

STELLA

I know. I have other cats.

ETHAN (FILTERED)

We're not going to vaporize your cat, Stella.

STELLA

Please, dad? Haven't I earned this?

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ethan groans in frustration.

ETHAN

Fine. But no more.

STELLA (FILTERED)

Thanks, dad!

THOMAS

Mr. Antrix, we're ready to begin.

Ethan gazes through the window at his daughter and at the cat eating in the cannon chamber.

ETHAN  
Incinerate the cat.

INT. PHASE CANNON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The chamber lights up. Stella shields her eyes.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

A satellite in geosynchronous orbit. A side panel opens.

A much larger Phase Cannon emerges, dwarfed by the satellite.

The end of the cannon glows.

A viscous beam of white light shoots down...

...through the atmosphere...

...through the clouds...

...toward a complex in the woods...

INT. CANNON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The cannon receiver hums.

The viscous beam SHOOMS into the chamber.

A BRIGHT WHITE FLASH

...the humming winds down as the light disappears.

Stella opens her eyes.

The cat is gone.

*Cool!*

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The operator views a monitor with a line animation of the satellite. The Phase Cannon retreats into its bay.

THOMAS  
The test was successful, sir!  
Geosynchronous orbit stable.

ETHAN

Very good. Now get my daughter out of there.

Ethan leaves the control room.

The operator turns on the intercom.

THOMAS

Stella? Your dad wants to see you in his office.

STELLA (FILTERED)

Thank you, Tommy.

Stella skips from the cannon room.

INT. ETHAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Stella sits across from her dad, the desk between them.

ETHAN

The plan?

STELLA

I'm ready.

ETHAN

Are you sure he'll come?

STELLA

He'll have no choice.

Stella rises. A mission to complete. Brisk steps.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - NIGHT

The band is back together. Nimrod joins Gorman and the gang at a table. His arms loaded with hotdogs.

NIMROD

Man, it's been too long!

He distributes dogs. He still has a pile.

CAMILLE

You're gonna get sick.

OZZIE

We still have The Renegade to ride.

NIMROD  
No roller coasters!

Nimrod feigns puking.

NIMROD  
Why so quiet, son?

Gorman picks at his hotdog.

GORMAN  
I'm gonna miss you guys.

NIMROD  
Where you going?

CAMILLE  
Stella's becoming too much of a  
hassle. We're going away.

OZZIE  
Wait. For good?

Camille and Gorman nod.

GORMAN  
We're asking mom to go with us.

*Dude.*

GORMAN  
It's Stella. She's obsessive.

NIMROD  
If Stella's the problem, I can help  
you out. She's a pussy cat. Just  
gotta find a way to skin her.

STELLA (O.S.)  
Oh, look. A family reunion. And  
without me.

The kids all lift and turn. Nimrod drops his dog.

Stella with her hands on her hips.

STELLA  
That hurts.

CAMILLE  
Leave before we make you leave.

STELLA

Don't act tough with me. I will  
whoop your ass across this park.

Nimrod rises and stomps in front of the table.

NIMROD

Beat it, psycho.

Stella drops her hands. Nimrod punches his paw.

GORMAN

Nimrod! No!

Stella draws her sword. Nimrod advances.

NIMROD

Go home, kid. I got this.

GORMAN

This is my fight.

Gorman pushes Nimrod back as...

Stella slashes with the sword. Gorman dodges.

STELLA

You're not fast enough

Stella slashes again. Gorman's left thigh opens up. Blood  
pours. He drops to his knee. Growling.

STELLA

Told ya so.

Stella leaps, bringing the sword down toward Gorman's head.

At the last second, Gorman swipes the sword away and  
uppercuts Stella.

Stella flies high, lands thirty feet away. The sword falls,  
piercing the pavement like the sword in the stone.

Gorman limps to her, dragging his wounded leg.

Stella lies coughing and gasping for breath. The wind knocked  
out of her.

Gorman reaches down and wraps his fingers around Stella's  
throat. He lifts her above his head.

Stella kicks wildly, but Gorman doesn't notice.

Gorman slams her on the asphalt BASH! He picks her up again.

GORMAN

Leave...  
 (BASH!)  
 ...my...

BASH! A small crowd gathers. Horrifying.

GORMAN

...family...  
 (BASH!)  
 ...alone!

BASH! SSSCRACKCH! Blood oozes from Stella's head.

Stella lies paralyzed, eyes half open. A light cough.

Gorman hammers her nose.

SPLUNCH! He caves her face in.

The crowd stares. The kids stare. Disbelief.

NIMROD

Jesus, Gorman.

Gorman picks up Stella's sword. He holds it over his head, the blade pointing down toward Stella's neck. He strikes down hard and...

SHPLINK! plants the sword in the pavement, mere inches from Stella's flesh.

The crowd gasps. Gorman finally sees them.

He turns to his family.

GORMAN

Let's go home.

Gorman embraces his kin.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Stacks of boxes line the walls. Nimrod carries a stack outside. Ozzie follows him with a dolly stacked with boxes.

Gorman pulls Andrea aside.

GORMAN

Mom... I don't feel right.

FLASH OF THE LIGHTNING STORM

ANDREA  
Does your leg hurt?

FLASH OF GORMAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

GORMAN  
I mean leaving.

ANDREA  
Are you afraid to fight her?

Andrea takes Gorman's hands.

ANDREA  
If you do fight, it will be over.  
You'll come home with me.

GORMAN  
What if she kills me for real?

She kisses him on the cheek.

ANDREA  
You'll be greeted on the other side  
by everyone you love.

FLASH OF GORMAN GLOWING

GORMAN  
What if it's nothing?

She leads him back to the others.

ANDREA  
You still have family.

They embrace. She whispers in his ear...

ANDREA  
She's your sister. If you can--

He whispers back...

GORMAN  
I promise.

They release.

ANDREA  
(to the others)  
Who wants to spend the night?

Everyone.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

Ethan stands by the fireplace staring into the flames.

Stella staggers in. Drops into a chair. Her face mangled.

STELLA  
How ya doin', pops?

ETHAN  
Your plan. It's now or never.

Ethan stokes the fire...

STELLA  
I'll do my best.

...pokes a glowing red log.

ETHAN  
You sound like your mother.

In one move, Stella springs from her chair and draws her pistol. Aims it right at his head.

STELLA  
Don't ever compare me to her!

Ethan grins...

ETHAN  
Stella. Look at you.

Stella recognizes the trouble she's in. Or is she?

She relaxes her gun arm.

ETHAN  
Finally acting like my little girl.

Stella eyes her gun, eyes Ethan. She holsters it.

ETHAN  
I meant it as a compliment.

Stella is steel.

ETHAN  
Do what you must.

He stokes the fire.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nimrod helps Andrea clear dishes. Camille sits on Gorman's lap. Ozzie shuffles the deck.

NIMROD  
I'm gonna miss you, ma.

ANDREA  
You've always been a son to me.

Nimrod piles plates in the sink. This is happiness.

Andrea kisses him on the cheek.

OZZIE  
Me, too, Ma?

Andrea glides to Ozzie. Kisses him.

ANDREA  
Of course.

OZZIE  
Cami's like your daughter. Except  
for that whole dating Gorman thing.

CAMILLE  
Ew! Ozzie!

NIMROD  
You're sick, man.

LOL

A knock on the front door.

Andrea wipes her hands and breezes to the living room.

Gorman gets up setting Camille on the chair.

GORMAN  
Mom, I got it.

ANDREA  
You wash the pans. I'll get it.

Andrea answers the door.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ethan barges in.

ANDREA

Excuse me!

ETHAN

Andrea, we need to talk. Stella--

ANDREA

We have nothing to talk about. She's your problem.

ETHAN

Stella is about to be your problem. I need that boy's blood.

He takes her by the arms. Gorman comes in.

GORMAN

You OK, mom?

Ethan releases Andrea. She goes back into the kitchen and sits at the table.

ETHAN

Stella won't stop. Ever. That's how I trained her.

GORMAN

I will end your only daughter.

ETHAN

For your mother's sake--

Gorman grabs Ethan by the buttons.

GORMAN

Don't you threaten my mother.

Ethan backs down...

ETHAN

My apologies.

GORMAN

I think it's time to leave. Don't call anymore.

...backs toward the open door...

ETHAN

As you wish.

...turns...

ETHAN

Kiss her goodbye for me.

...exits as Stella saunters in. She's a modern day desperado.

TWELVE MEN armed with MK-5s follow Stella in.

STELLA

I'm here to negotiate.

The men surround the kitchen entrance.

Stella confronts Gorman.

STELLA

Let's talk!

She motions him to the...

KITCHEN

Gorman stands in front of Andrea. The others are seated.

STELLA

This is going to happen.

She points at Gorman.

STELLA

So waddya say, Louie? Wanna come with me or watch people die?

GORMAN

I'm not leaving. We can fight here.

STELLA

New deal. My turf.

Stella's men step in closer. She aims at Andrea.

STELLA

Come with me or the bitch dies.

CAMILLE

We're not afraid of you, Stella.

Stella walks around the table and steps beside Ozzie.

STELLA

Need I remind you that only most of you will survive?

She points the gun under Ozzie's chin.

Nobody moves for several moments as Stella matches gazes around the table.

STELLA  
Everybody? OK.

BOOM! She scatters Ozzie's brains.

Andrea screams. Camille and Nimrod jump up. Stella aims at Andrea's face.

STELLA  
Sit. The fuck. Down.

Nimrod and Camille lower slowly, glaring at Stella.

STELLA  
He's not coming back from that.

GORMAN  
You can have my blood!

She steps behind Nimrod. His breath heavy. Anger.

STELLA  
This is about more than your blood.

STELLA  
I like you, Rod. Hope you come back.

She presses the barrel into Nimrod's back.

STELLA  
This is for betraying my father.

BLAM! In the heart from behind. Nimrod's eyes widen.

NIMROD  
You better hope I die...

Nimrod falls over.

Stella walks past Gorman around to Camille. She points the gun at Camille's head, gripping her face in her hand. Cold.

STELLA  
It'll be so much sweeter to see you cry when I kill your beloved.

Stella releases Camille. Moves to Andrea.

STELLA  
This is about you.

GORMAN

Stop it!

STELLA

This is about a mother abandoning her own daughter to be tortured by her loving father.

Stella points the gun at Andrea's head...

ANDREA

That's not fair! Your father took you from me.

STELLA

You still could have stayed! But you chose him over me! I'm your daughter, for Christ's sake!

...presses the barrel hard to Andrea's temple...

ANDREA

I didn't know what he did to you!

...cocks the pistol...

GORMAN

Stella, please! I'll fight!

...holds...

ANDREA

No! Stella's right. I have to account for my mistakes.

STELLA

Hold on, there, mom. Louie's a big boy. He can make his own decisions.

...turns over her shoulder...

STELLA

To the death?

GORMAN

Yours or mine?

STELLA

Dealer's choice.

...uncocks the pistol. Holsters it.

STELLA

Come on, Louie! We got a train to catch. Get it? Train? Ah forget it.

She walks past her men.

Gorman comes across and follows two men.

ANDREA

Remember your promise!

Gorman turns his head to her. His last goodbye.

STELLA

(to her men)

If they move...shoot *her*.

She indicates Andrea.

INT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Eight armed men hold their automatics on the kids and Andrea.

Nimrod GARGLES awake.

Camille raises her hand.

CAMILLE

I need to use the restroom. I got brains all over me.

GUARD

You can clean up after Stella calls.

CAMILLE

Can I at least use the kitchen sink?

GUARD

You can sit down and shut up.

Nimrod slowly stands and moves in front of Andrea.

All of the guards point their guns at him.

GUARD

Sit down!

NIMROD

You shouldn't treat women like this, ya know. Me, I can handle it, but they're fragile.

The guard steps in.

GUARD  
I said, sit down!

Nimrod lowers himself, shielding Andrea completely.

BANG

BANG

BANG

Three men drop and all guns turn to Camille.

She fires. Three more drop. TWO LEFT.

Nimrod lunges. He grabs them by their throats and lifts them up...

BASH! heads into the floor.

CAMILLE  
(to Nimrod)  
Fragile?

Nimrod shrugs.

CAMILLE  
(to Andrea)  
Are you hurt?

Andrea quickly checks herself.

ANDREA  
No.

CAMILLE  
We need to get Gorman.

NIMROD  
We need to get Ozzie to Kingston.

ANDREA  
He's right. Gorman can handle  
Stella. We need to save Ozzie.

*Who needs me more right now?*

CAMILLE  
Grab him, Nimmie.

Nimrod puts Ozzie's body over his shoulder.

INT. KINGSTON HOSPITAL - ICU - LATER

Nimrod and Andrea stand on the far side of the bed. Andrea and Nikola look over Ozzie's body.

NIKOLA  
This doesn't look good. Ozzie never  
healed like you two.

NIMROD  
He was smart as fuck.

NIKOLA  
You all had your own reactions.

ANDREA  
Can you save him?

NIKOLA  
I'll put him in the cooler and check  
on his progress tomorrow.

Nimrod breaks down and cries. He sits on the edge of the bed next to Ozzie.

Camille puts her arms around him and they hold each other as he cries loudly.

CAMILLE  
It'll be OK, Nimmie.

NIMROD  
I'm going to kill that sick fuck!

Andrea walks over to Nimrod and puts her hand on his face.

ANDREA  
Remember what Ozzie would want.

CAMILLE  
Yeah, he didn't like hurting people  
unless he had to.

NIMROD  
(sniffling)  
He was always afraid to go in.

ANDREA  
Give it time. Be rational. That's  
what Ozzie would do.

Nimrod stands.

NIMROD  
I'm still going to kill her.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Nikola pulls out the drawer with Ozzie in it.

He pulls the sheet back to reveal Ozzie's cold, blue face. A gaping hole atop his head.

ANDREA  
How does he look?

NIKOLA  
No growth along his skull.

Nikola examines Ozzie's arm. He lifts up Ozzie's hand and examines the fingertips.

NIKOLA  
He's showing signs of necrosis.

ANDREA  
Should we give it more time?

Nikola checks the other hand. Shakes his head.

NIKOLA  
What will the kids do?

ANDREA  
Nimrod has been calm, but I can tell he's fuming.

NIKOLA  
And Camille?

ANDREA  
She just wants to get Gorman back.

NIKOLA  
I have something that will help.

INT. CARSON COMPLEX - LAB - DAY

Camille and Nimrod watch as Nikola holds up a white vest.

NIKOLA  
We put it over Kevlar just to be sure. The links are hair thin Eurylium and can stop a bullet.

He places the vest on a small rack on a table. He presses a touch screen on a small laser pointed at the vest.

The beam shoots out, striking the middle of the vest.

NIKOLA

It still absorbs energy at an astounding rate.

CAMILLE

Will it stop Ethan's Phase cannon?

Nikola turns off the laser.

NIKOLA

I don't know. It's superior technology. Natural Eurylium absorbs it, but it hasn't been tested on this alloy.

Nikola picks up the vest and hands it to Camille.

NIKOLA

Put it on.

Camille puts the vest on.

NIKOLA

This is pretty cool.

He pulls out a gun and points it at Camille, who protests, but not fast enough.

He fires two shots, striking her directly in the chest.

She looks down at the vest.

CAMILLE

You missed?

NIKOLA

Look at the floor.

She looks down and sees two bullets lying on the floor.

She looks up in awe.

NIKOLA

The more light energy it absorbs, the more kinetic energy it can absorb. It stops bullets. It even works with electricity.

NIMROD  
That's pretty rad.

NIKOLA  
We're working on yours. You're a big  
guy, Rod.

Nimrod flexes.

NIMROD  
Stella's gonna have a hard time  
stopping this beast.

CAMILLE  
Let's hope we're in time.

Nikola grows sullen.

INT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - NIGHT

Gorman sits bound in a chair in a storage room. Blood all  
over his body.

Stella stands over him with her sword.

She pokes him in the arm with the point and twists it.

Gorman winces at first then cries out.

STELLA  
I can do this forever.

GORMAN  
I already agreed. Why this?

Stella slices Gorman's arm off. He howls.

STELLA  
Because fuck you, that's why.

GORMAN  
Your father is a sick fuck. Mom had  
no choice.

Stella places the arm together. It heals.

STELLA  
Neither do I. I suffered, therefor  
you suffer.

Stella slices off both of Gorman's legs. A silent scream.

STELLA

This is my pain! You caused this!

Steaming tears wash over Gorman's cheeks.

Stella replaces Gorman's legs.

Gorman struggles to slow his breath.

GORMAN

Lets...do...this...

STELLA

Ready to die? So was I a year ago.  
You don't get used to it.

Stella cuts off Gorman's other arm.

GORMAN

I'm...not...afraid...to die...

STELLA

Hurts that much, eh?

Gorman's face twists in agony.

Stella replaces the arm.

STELLA

Have it your way.

Stella unlocks the shackles.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

A van speeds down the highway followed closely by an armored personnel carrier.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Nimrod drives with Camille riding shotgun. They wear their new vests.

CAMILLE

Are you sure we've got enough?

NIMROD

He's got some five hundred feral soldiers. The ones we trained on.

He points to the SIX MEN in the back of the van wearing body armor and carrying long rifles.

NIMROD

They're our snipers. They'll pick 'em off while we fight inside.

CAMILLE

He better be alive or I swear...

NIMROD

She hasn't come after us, yet. She's gotta be toying with him.

EXT. CONVOY - CONTINUOUS

The van leads the personnel carrier.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

Stella and Gorman circle each other in the center of the floor. The padding gone. Only smooth cement remains.

Stella strikes. Gorman blocks.

GORMAN

You don't have to do this. This has nothing to do with me or mom.

STELLA

You were the reason for it.

Stella attacks. They move so fast, their arms lock and unlock in a violent puzzle box.

Gorman breaks through. BOOF! Into Stella's sternum.

GORMAN

Your father was the reason.

Stella leaps into action. An acrobatic attack. So many kicks and punches high and low, Gorman can't dodge them all.

A leg sweep. Gorman topples.

STELLA

My father took care of me when no one else would. He told me she left.

Stella takes to the air...

...Gorman rolls away from a face stomp.

GORMAN

He tortured you.

STELLA

He made me strong.

Gorman swings his legs. Stella topples like a tree.

Gorman pounces on her.

GORMAN

He lied to you. He pushed her away.

Stella knees Gorman in the balls. He falls off her.

Stella rolls to a stand. Gorman rocks on the floor.

STELLA

Lies! She abandoned me!

Stella drops an elbow on Gorman.

Gorman reaches up and grabs Stella's head. He twists...

SSCRIICK! Her neck.

Stella falls limp to the floor. Gorman grips her neck.

GORMAN

Talk to mom. She'll tell you.

Stella's head thrashes.

STELLA

What did you promise her.

Gorman backs off...

GORMAN

That I wouldn't kill you.

STELLA

Now don't you go breakin' mama's  
heart.

...circles...

GORMAN

You're my sister.

STELLA

(coughs)  
You're nothing to me.

...stops on the opposite side of the room from Stella...

GORMAN

You can still have your mother.

...not watching when she recovers and...

...leaps across the room.

Stella lands blow after blow.

STELLA

I'll die first!

The last straw. It's now a full blown brawl. Stella and Gorman trade kicks and punches, striking each other hard and fast in a ballet of brutality.

Up and down and all ways, they beat and toss each other.

The room disintegrates around them as they trade the advantage. They wrestle.

GORMAN

Mom still loves you!

Stella wraps her arm under Gorman's chin. She twists her body. She spins.

SSCRIIICK! Payback at the cost of a knee.

Gorman falls. Stella hobbles.

STELLA

When I finish with you, I'm coming for her.

GORMAN

Come home.

STELLA

Baby, you have no idea.

Stella hobbles to her sword.

GORMAN

Mom needs us.

STELLA

She needs you about as much as she needs me.

Stella takes the sword. Drags it into her grip, the weight putting pressure on her torn knee. She stumbles.

STELLA  
I'll show her.

She lifts the sword, standing shakily on her good leg.

STELLA  
You took her away from me.

The weight of the sword gets to her but she holds.

STELLA  
I'm gonna take you away from her.

GORMAN  
Stella! No!

The sword falls. Gorman's head rolls off his body cleanly.

Stella picks up the pieces.

She drags Gorman's corpse across the floor and out the door.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Down the hallway she hauls the body, drag-stepping her way to the cannon room, blood draining onto the floor next to her.

She uses her nose to press the touch pad by the door.

INT. CANNON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stella places Gorman's body inside the cannon chamber.

She compacts it then places the head on the knees.

She presses the intercom button.

STELLA  
You ready, Tommy?

THOMAS (FILTERED)  
She's all powered up. I still haven't gotten auth from your dad.

STELLA  
He said it was OK.

THOMAS (FILTERED)  
We're gonna draw attention if we keep doing this.

STELLA

This is the last one, I swear.

A pause.

THOMAS (FILTERED)

Step back and watch your eyes.

The machine hums. Stella watches eagerly.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

The satellite emerges from its sleep.

The beam of light shoots down.

INT. CANNON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The brilliance fills the room. Stella shields her eyes.

The light dims as quickly and the humming winds down.

THOMAS (FILTERED)

You're clear. Looks good in here.

Stella limps to the chamber and opens the door.

Only a small smattering of ashes remain.

STELLA

Where's my dad?

THOMAS (FILTERED)

Waiting for you in the car.

STELLA

Cool.

She struts out of the cannon room.

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

A car waits for Stella at the front door. She scurries out the building and to the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Stella opens the door to see Ethan, who reads a newspaper.

ETHAN

Is it done?

She pumps her fist.

STELLA

Toast.

ETHAN

I told you to save the body!

STELLA

There's plenty of it all over the training room.

ETHAN

You will lose limbs for a month!

STELLA

But dad--

ETHAN

You know the rule. Until you learn not to fail me...

Stella gets in and closes the door.

*Not again...*

EXT. CONVOY - CONTINUOUS

The van lets the armored car lead the way. The gates to the Antrix complex are just ahead.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Nimrod and Camille watch the armored carrier speed ahead.

NIMROD

Just gonna pull back a little, and--

EXT. CONVOY - CONTINUOUS

The personnel carrier barrels forward.

It crashes hard through the gate. The van follows.

When the van clears, the personnel carrier opens up and TWO DOZEN ARMED MEN in body armor disembark.

The carrier closes and peels out in reverse, burning past the gate. It stops just outside, blocking the entrance.

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

The car carrying Stella and Ethan stops.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Stella looks ahead through the windshield.

STELLA

Thirty men. Six snipers lining up on the personnel carrier.

ETHAN

I'll handle this.

He turns on his phone and presses three numbers.

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

The snipers take position on top of the personnel carrier.

Nimrod, carrying a Minigun, and Camille, carrying an M1137 with two pistols at her side, lead the twenty four soldiers.

FIFTY modified soldiers with blank eyes and odd snarls pour out of the main building. The snipers start picking them off.

Nimrod sets the minigun down and picks up his rifle.

NIMROD

Remember! Head and heart shots!

Nimrod peers through his scope.

NIMROD

This is for you, Oz.

POP! SHPUNK! POP! SHPUNK! POP! SHPUNK!

Three straight head shots. He continues firing.

He picks up the minigun and sprays.

The modified men that don't take cover are mowed down.

FOUR of Carson's soldiers fall dead. TWENTY left.

Another wave of FIFTY men pours out of the building.

NIMROD

Not nearly all. He's sending them  
out in waves.

CAMILLE

Take 'em out!

NIMROD

My belt's almost empty!

CAMILLE

Now!

He sprays the next wave of men. Heads explode. The ones in  
front drop immediately. Some find cover. DOZENS dead.

The bullets run out and the Minigun whirls to a halt.

CAMILLE

You ready?

NIMROD

Has it been five hundred, yet?

Here comes another FIFTY modified soldiers.

NIMROD

Aw, shit.

He pulls out his M1137 and takes cover behind the van.

CAMILLE

I'm not even gonna ask.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Stella and Ethan watch the carnage from the car.

Ethan chuckles.

ETHAN

Five hundred men ready to die for me  
and they're having trouble with only  
a hundred and fifty. Let's go.

STELLA

No, wait. I wanna get a closer look.

Stella gets out of the car.

ETHAN

Stella! Get back here!

She slams the door shut.

EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Stella saunters over to the battlefield, hips swaying.

When she gets to the edge she calls out to her men.

STELLA  
Cease fire!

Cross fire whiffs by in front of her.

STELLA  
I said cease fire!

The men stop shooting and take cover.

Nikola's soldiers stop shooting and take cover.

Nimrod and Camille come out of hiding.

Stella walks down to the neutral zone.

STELLA  
Nimrod! Even though I have to kill  
you, I still like you!

NIMROD  
Means the world to me, Stella!

CAMILLE  
Stella! Let Gorman go!

Stella laughs.

STELLA  
Oh, I already did. To the hereafter.

CAMILLE  
I don't believe you.

STELLA  
Seriously. He's a pile of ash.

Camille comes out firing. Bullets rip through Stella.

Stella draws and returns fire, but the bullets simply bounce off Camille's vest.

Camille walks forward firing. Stella runs for cover, taking two more shots to the back.

STELLA

Slag!

Stella runs back to the car waving her arm.

Another FIFTY modified soldiers storm out of the building.

No one fires. Yet. The men surround the allies' position.

Camille goes back behind the van.

CAMILLE

It never ends.

NIMROD

Neither do we.

Nimrod comes out firing, and the soldiers follow suit.

Only a few of the new fifty drop, while SIX more of Carson's soldiers are shredded. FOURTEEN left plus the snipers.

Another swarm of fifty. Nearly TWO HUNDRED surround them.

The sky goes gray. Storm clouds rush in. Thunder rumbles. The bass drops.

The wind blows. Debris flies through the air, and everyone takes cover.

LIGHTNING strikes in the clouds as they swirl slowly.

A BOLT strikes from the sky, hitting two modified men hiding behind a tree.

A few more LIGHTNING BOLTS strike more of them. The lightning distinguishes the two sides.

The clouds form darkened and packed concentric circles. Smaller bolts of lightning fly from the sides.

A massive bolt rips through the clouds and down to the middle of the neutral zone. It disappears and a shockwave rips down the path of the lightning and blows back the obstacles the evil men hide behind.

Camille and Nimrod watch from beneath the van as a bright band of light penetrates the darkness and strikes the spot where the lightning struck. The beam widens and intensifies.

The light inside thickens. A silhouette shows through.

Stella peers over the roof of the car as she sees the form of a man appear within the beam.

The man raises his arms. The wind picks up. The sky CRACKLES.

The men rise to see Gorman emerge from the light.

Dressed in soft white garments, Gorman drops his arms.

Hundreds of lightning bolts pierce the air and kill all of the bad men.

NIMROD

Ho...ly...shit...

CAMILLE

Gorman?

EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Stella opens the car door.

STELLA

Dad! Dad! We gotta go back inside!

She grabs him and drags him from the car.

ETHAN

Why?

STELLA

Hurry!

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Stella races through the front door.

Ethan is a little behind. He opens the door.

ETHAN

Where are you going?

Stella yells back.

STELLA

The cannon lab!

*Shit...*

Ethan runs in.

The remaining two hundred and fifty modified soldiers in his employ seep from the building.

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - NEUTRAL ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Gorman stops glowing and goes on the attack. Nimrod and Camille crawl from under the van and watch.

NIMROD  
No fucking way. This is bullshit.

CAMILLE  
It's him.

NIMROD  
I guess she was lying, after all.

CAMILLE  
No. This is something else.

NIMROD  
Look at him.

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - NEUTRAL ZONE - CONTINUOUS

The men swarm Gorman but to no avail. He works through them like a steaming knife. They shoot, but the bullets go through Gorman and hit their own men.

Gorman moves with a speed and strength unlike anything before. He makes short work of large swathes of men.

NIMROD  
That's my boy! Let's go!

Camille, Nimrod, and the FOURTEEN rush into the fray.

The snipers pick off who they can.

Camille and Nimrod double team Ethan's men, playing off each other and taking them out two and three at a time.

Nimrod backs up to Gorman.

NIMROD  
Looking good, kid. We got the rest of them. Now go get that crazy train.

Gorman nods and looks over at Camille.

CAMILLE  
Do what you can.

One of Ethan's men comes flying at her. She tosses him to Nimrod who punches him far into the distance.

Gorman glows and an intense beam of light shoots up from his body, enveloping him. The light disappears with him inside.

INT. CANNON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stella pounds on the glass. She presses the intercom button.

STELLA

Tommy? Are you in there?

Ethan follows.

STELLA

Tommy?

ETHAN

Stella, what are you doing?

STELLA

You saw it! If that's what happens when this thing disintegrates you, I want in!

ETHAN

I will not kill my only daughter.

STELLA

So you would if you had two?

ETHAN

This is not going to happen. We are on the verge of having the world's only remaining army, and I will not have you vaporizing herself.

STELLA

What army?! You let three of them get away from you all because you're still in love with that bitch.

Ethan backhands Stella to her knee.

Stella draws her .45 and raises it. She rises.

ETHAN

What are you doing?

Stella circles Ethan...

STELLA

Falling short of your expectations.

ETHAN

I believe in your full potential. I was supposed to be a steel worker. I was beaten when I refused. My right arm still twitches. Now look at me, about to rule a global empire...with you as my sword.

STELLA

You don't want me. You want him.

ETHAN

Nonsense.

STELLA

You said I was useless. You could always get him.

...inches closer...

ETHAN

You don't know what you're doing!

STELLA

Look what you did to me!

ETHAN

I made you powerful--

STELLA

You made me angry.

...cocks the pistol...

STELLA

For that...

...under his chin.

STELLA

I can never forgive you.

BOOM!

Ethan's corpse folds to the ground.

Thomas wanders in. *Oh, shit!*

THOMAS

Am I gonna die, too?

STELLA

Not if you get your ass in that control room.

Stella waves the pistol. Thomas gets in the control room.

STELLA (FILTERED)  
When I say fire, you fire.

THOMAS  
Are you sure about this?

ON STELLA climbing in the chamber.

STELLA  
Either I come back a god or I don't  
come back at all. I'll be happy  
either way.

THOMAS (FILTERED)  
Ready when you are.

STELLA  
Do it!

The machine hums as it powers on. The chamber lights up.

The room goes bright white in a flash, blinding Stella.

A shock wave rips through the room, tearing the chamber  
apart. Stella falls to the side.

The shock wave rips through the ceiling and...

INTO SPACE

The wave pushes the beam back. The beam breaks into a  
thousand shards.

The satellite buckles and ripples as the shock wave passes.

The satellite disintegrates in a flash of white.

IN THE CANNON ROOM

The walls crack. The window shatters sending big shards into  
Thomas's body and face. He falls over.

Gorman emerges from the beam of light. The room destroyed.

Stella brushes herself off.

STELLA  
No! Why do you keep taking  
everything away from me!

GORMAN  
I've taken nothing.

STELLA

My mother! My fucking soul!

GORMAN

She didn't abandon you. Go to her.

Stella stands en garde, ready to fight.

STELLA

I needed her then. Not now.

Stella leaps.

Gorman lifts his hand and points his finger at her chest.

He touches her. Stella flies into the wall.

GORMAN

It's not too late.

Stella gets to her knees.

She pulls the sword from her back and charges. She swings.

Gorman catches the blade in his hand.

GORMAN

Why do you insist on fighting a war  
you cannot win?

Gorman shoves Stella into another wall.

STELLA

I need this! I need something!

GORMAN

You need to go home.

STELLA

You'll have to kill me.

Gorman glides to Stella, placing his hands firmly around her head. He closes his eyes and...

GORMAN

Mom said, value most what is rare. I  
value my sister.

...glows from the center out.

Stella gasps. A silent scream.

The light overtakes her. Smearred by white light.

The light dies down. Stella collapses.

GORMAN

You will no longer harm anyone who has not harmed you. You will be weak, but you will feel no pain.

STELLA

What did you do to me?

GORMAN

I made you impotent. Forever young.

She strikes at him, but her blows fall flat.

She tries to pick up her sword, but she can't get her fingers under the handle.

STELLA

You were supposed to kill me!

GORMAN

You need time. You should still be young when you heal.

STELLA

Fate worse than death...

Gorman looks at her stone cold.

GORMAN

You live.

She crawls over and grabs onto his waist.

STELLA

We can be together forever. Take me with you!

Gorman brushes her off. She falls to the floor in a heap.

Tears fall.

Stella curls into a ball.

Gorman glows.

Explosions ripple through the room vaporizing everything.

EXT. ANTRIX COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

Camille, Nimrod and the remaining soldiers pick off what's left of Ethan's men.

The ground rumbles, shaking everyone off their feet.

A giant white light, bigger than the one the laser cannon made, rips open the roof of the main building.

The ground shakes harder.

NIMROD  
Shit. Take cover!

Nikola's men all rush out of the complex yard and take cover behind the personnel carrier.

The white light shoots into the atmosphere.

Thunder roars. Lightning strikes.

A giant explosion rips through the building like a shockwave, bringing it down to its foundation in a rush of flames.

A bright white flash, and the buildings are gone. Not even rubble remains. Only ash and Stella curled up in the middle.

A glowing Gorman walks from the building.

Nimrod and Camille lift up their heads to see the carnage.

NIMROD  
Gorman?

They crawl out of their hiding spot.

Camille runs up to Gorman and wraps her arms around him tightly. She begins to glow with him.

CAMILLE  
You're alive!

GORMAN  
It's over. Stella is done.

The glow fades. Nimrod walks up to Gorman and Camille.

NIMROD  
You's a bad motherfucker, Gory.

Gorman, still holding Camille...

GORMAN  
Let's go home.

They start their trek back.

INT. ANDREA'S NEW HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The new house is bigger than the old one. The furniture is more spread out and there's an extra recliner. More light comes through the windows.

Gorman and Andrea sit on the couch.

ANDREA

Are you sure?

GORMAN

There's so much out there. All of my dreams are real. I have to explore.

ANDREA

I'm going to miss my baby boy.

He takes her hand.

GORMAN

I'll be back, mom. I promise.

ANDREA

Promise me you'll be happy.

He kisses her cheek.

Camille and Nimrod walk through the front door.

Andrea and Gorman get up.

CAMILLE

We visited Ozzie.

NIMROD

He looks so peaceful.

Gorman looks at Andrea.

Nimrod's eyes well up.

NIMROD

We put flowers next to his headstone. The grass is so green and soft. Like a piece of heaven.

Andrea walks over to hold Nimrod as he breaks down.

INT. GORMAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Camille lies under the covers watching Gorman come out of the bathroom in his underwear.

He sits on the bed and she puts her arms over his shoulders.

CAMILLE

I want you to stay.

GORMAN

I know. I don't expect you to understand, but I lived a lifetime in those few minutes after Stella vaporized me.

CAMILLE

I do understand. You can do more and you don't have to fight. Still--

GORMAN

It's more than that. It's existence in its purest form. It's what I was meant to be.

CAMILLE

It is. But I want you here.

He holds her face in his hand.

GORMAN

You will always have a piece of me.

He smiles and kisses her.

GORMAN

It's a girl.

Camille shudders and smiles.

CAMILLE

You know already?

GORMAN

I can see everything.

He stands up. She gets off the bed.

Camille throws her arms over Gorman's shoulders and kisses him passionately.

She pulls away slowly and holds his face.

CAMILLE

Make sure you can see me.

He smiles.

Gorman's body begins to glow softly.

They wrap their arms around each other in a tight embrace.

The glow overtakes the room.

Camille kisses Gorman one last time.

As she finishes, the room flashes bright white for a moment. When the light fades, Gorman is gone.

Camille goes to the window and looks up at the night sky.

A bolt of lightning streaks toward the stars and disappears.

FADE TO:

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

A lonely farm house.

The sky rumbles as clouds stream in.

The sky lights up to reveal the clouds swirling.

Small slivers of lightning protrude from the circle of clouds accompanied by light thunder.

A thick lightning bolt streaks down from the center, striking a hill beside a tree. A loud crash of thunder follows.

When the bolt disappears, a charred hole remains in the ground. A baby lies inside swaddled by birthing blankets, a small curl of hair protruding above his forehead.

The baby cries.

The porch light comes on. A woman comes out to investigate.

FADE OUT.