

Regent of the Sun

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1 **EXT. THE UNIVERSE**

1

A swift voyage through the COSMOS leads to EARTH.

2 **EXT. MOUNTAINOUS VOLCANO - NIGHT**

2

Super: 25,000 BCE

The volcano erupts. RAIN and HAIL fall from the sky. At the top of the mountain a ferocious BATTLE takes place.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)

Upon the birth of mankind, a battle
was waged between *Wraiths of the Dark*
and *Regents of the Light*.

Hundreds of creatures (WRAITHS, cobalt-black snake-scaled SKIN, with BLACK WINGS), defend the volcano's PEAK. Most of them wield CRIMSON RED SPEARS.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)

The Wraiths hungered to enslave this
new race; For it was in their nature
to feed the ravenous Dark.

Four REGENTS, wearing PEARLY ARMOR and armed with GILDED DAGGERS & GOLDEN SHORT-SWORDS, fight their way to the top.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)

The Regents fought to defend man; For
it was in their nature to safeguard
life nurtured by the Light.

Thousands of dead Wraiths and dozens of dead Regents speckle the mountaintop.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)

The Wraiths were all but destroyed.

Only four Wraiths remain; Their PRINCES. Each has their own weapon: TRIDENT with a spiked handle, BATTLE AXE, Curved SABRE, and a Double-Bladed KATANA SPEAR.

The Wraith Princes nod in agreement. Launch their weapons (with super strength) North, East, South, and West. Then, they DIVE into the volcano. Their bodies are VAPORIZED.

Seconds later, a preternatural GATEWAY opens in the sky. Three of the four Regents morph into ethereal, tubular BEAMS of OPAL-BLUE LIGHTS and ascend through the gateway.

One Regent stays--morphs into a BEAM of OPAL-BLUE LIGHT , then SPIRALS on a JOURNEY across the land. Until it splits; One, an OPAL WHITE LIGHT. The other, a WISPY GREY LIGHT.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)

Man was fragile. So, one celestial
power was divided into two spirits.

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CONTINUED:

The Opal White Light reaches a cave. Enters the body of a sleeping WOMAN. The woman's EYES open, aglow in WHITE LIGHT, then they return to normal. She sleeps. Oblivious.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
A *Guardian*.

The Wispy Grey Light arrives at a BEACH, Where a YOUNG BOY splashes in the water. The Grey Light merges with the Child.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
And a *Herald*.

The little Boy's eyes SHINE GREY, but then return to normal.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
As each generation passed, the *Guardian* and *Herald* would inhabit new hosts. Forever vigilant, should the Darkness return.

3 INT. SCIENTIFIC LABRATORY - DAY

3

Super: 2281 CE

A scared YOUNG MOTHER (early-20s), is strapped to a GURNEY. Next to her is a small POD containing her BABY BOY.

Three MEN and one WOMAN encircle the pod: Two of the men wear GREY SUITS: BASTIAN (early-40s, tall, strapping blonde haired). GIBBONS (early-50s, average build, thin moustache). The other two are SCIENTISTS in their mid-20s: A WOMAN and a MAN (wearing BLACK-FRAMED GLASSES.)

Bastian stares giddily at the baby.

MALE SCIENTIST
Results were positive, Sir.

BASTIAN
Of course they were; He's perfect.

Gibbons evaluates the Male Scientist.

GIBBONS
I understand the lab was compromised?

MALE SCIENTIST
A magnetic processer malfunctioned.

The Male Scientist RUBS THE BACK OF HIS NECK.

GIBBONS
Malfunctioned?

MALE SCIENTIST
Inconsequential, Sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN
Run the tests again.

MALE SCIENTIST
I can assure-
(Swallows)
Right away, Sir.

Bastian starts to leave with Gibbons by his side. The Male Scientist glances at the scared Young Mother.

MALE SCIENTIST
Once completed, what of the child?

GIBBONS
Put the 'vessel' on 'ice'.

The Male Scientist massages the back of his neck again.

MALE SCIENTIST
And the woman?

BASTIAN
The *Breeder* remains here. In case of
another... 'malfunction'.

Bastian and Gibbons exit.

MALE SCIENTIST
I'll embalm the *Vessel* for Cryogenic
Conservation. Please handle storage.

The Female Scientist nods. The Male Scientist stares at the Young Mother, troubled by her despair.

4 INT. SCIENCE LAB, NURSERY - NIGHT 4

A large, sterile room. Filled with HUNDREDS of 30x20-inch white CASES, with GLASS FRONTS. Each Box HOLDS A CRYO-FROZEN BABY. Labels read: "*SPECIMEN - (Followed by Roman Numerals)*."

Along one Wall is an EMPTY SPACE. The Female Scientist slots a RED CASE in to the open space. It also contains a FROZEN BABY, and a LABEL: "SPECIMEN - SPECIMEN - ALPHA".

Just as she slots the box in to place- ALARM SIRENS BLARE.

5 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 5

ALAMRS roar, as the Young Mother rushes down a HALLWAY toward a DOOR. A loud voice crackles over a KLAXON.

VOICE ON KLAXON (VO)
*The 'Breeder' has escaped. Paladin
squad 4-3 to G1, immediately.*

By the door is the Male Scientist. He hands the Young Mother her BABY, and CLOTHES. The Young Mother dresses.

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CONTINUED:

YOUNG MOTHER

Why?

The Scientist props the DOOR open and then hands the Young Mother a CARD and a KNIFE.

MALE SCIENTIST

Go to the *Hudson Gate*. This'll get you through.

The Young Mother looks at the Scientist, with gratitude. He nods to the open doors. She exits, and the doors close.

The Scientist squats against the wall, disoriented. Confused.

6 **EXT. WOODS - DAY**

6

The Young Mother dashes along a CREEK while being pursued by Soldiers (PALADINS). She finds a small COVE, and hides. She hears the Soldiers run past. They're safe. For now.

She smiles at her Baby, then WINCES in pain. Sees one of her hand's is covered in BLOOD. She was SHOT.

7 **EXT. RIVER BY THE WOODS - DAY**

7

A few days have passed. The Young Mother's barely alive. But is no longer being pursued. She's made CAMP next to a RIVER.

She's CARVED a makeshift nest/crib for the Baby, thickly-packed with twigs, MOSS, and her hospital GOWN.

The Young Mother walks out into the River, with the baby in it's nest. Closes her eyes.

YOUNG MOTHER

"O, great River. O, great Wind. Carry him along the River. Guide him home with the Wind."

The Young Mother RELEASES THE NEST. The river carries it away, as the Young Mother descends under the water: Dead.

LATER

Further downriver: the nest PASSES a FINELY-DRESSED BABY DOLL just as the river forks into TWO STREAMS. The nest goes down one stream, while the Doll floats down the other.

8 **EXT. PASSAGE OF TIME - DAY**

8

MONTAGE:

(The Baby Doll drifts along various WATERWAYS over 30 years)

A FJORD - the DOLL passes an INDIGENOUS TRIBE by a fire, cooking FISH with a 6-year OLD BOY.

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CONTINUED:

A CREEK - the DOLL (clothes ragged) passes a middle-aged INDIGENOUS WOMAN, teaching an 8-year-OLD BOY to HUNT.

An ESTUARY - the (naked) DOLL drifts past a group of middle-aged INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, as they hand a 9 year-OLD BOY to a GROUP of PEOPLE wearing BLACK TRENCHCOATS, and HOODIES.

A LAKE - the DOLL (growing moldy) passes a 16 year-OLD BOY, being trained in hand-to-hand combat by a MAN [60s).

A COVE - the DOLL passes a 24 year-OLD MAN, with 8 other black-clad FIGHTERS, protecting a small fishing village from a vicious gang of MEN wearing Skull masks.

HUDSON RIVER - Barnacles and mold coat the DOLL as it FLOATS toward a ROCKY, CRAGGY SHORE.

END MONTAGE

9 **EXT. HUDSON RIVER SHOREFRONT - DAY**

9

Present day.

A large LEATHER BOOT STOMPS down in front of the BABY DOLL.

KANA, (mid-30s, dark-skinned, tall, strong), stares at the BABY DOLL. He wears a BLACK TRENCHCOAT and HOODIE. He's a fearsome man, with an underlying melancholy about him.

Two miles away, is a gleaming CITY, encircled by a monolithic white marble WALL. To Kana's right is a decayed BRIDGE, and a half-submerged, fractured, STATUE OF LIBERTY.

Kana takes a BOTTLE from a SATCHEL goes to fill it, when-

THWUMP

A small STONE hits Kana's SHOULDER. Kana pounces up. twenty yards away he sees a teenage girl; ALINA, (14, part feral, part fearless, part fragile). She holds a paltry SLINGSHOT.

KANA

Sure you wanna do this?

Alina steps toward Kana and points at the WATER, makes a *cutting gesture across her throat*. Kana follows her eyes and 30-ft away sees a dead DOG bobbling downriver.

KANA

Mm, much obliged.

Alina points to Kana's BOTTLE and makes a *drinking gesture*.

KANA

You know where to get water?

Alina nods and ushers Kana to follow her into the remains of a derelict CITY. Though wary, Kana follows her.

10 **EXT. CITY ALLEYWAY - DAY**

10

Kana and Alina arrive at a 4x4-ft STREET GRATE. Alina *gestures for Kana to open the grate*. Kana peeks around, then picks up the heavy grate with ease. Alina's surprised.

Under the grate is a 6x6-ft WATER PIPE. DAGON CORP is stenciled on the side. A *make-shift* FAUCET has been tapped into the PIPE. Kana nods, impressed.

KANA

Clever.

Alina shrugs. Looks away, *impishly*. Kana opens the FAUCET-

MALE VOICE (OS)

Hey! Shitheel! Whaddya doin'?

Kana peers down the alley, sees five menacing MEN.

RIPPERS

They wear TAN PANTS, BROWN TURTLENECKS and GREEN DERBY HATS. A black SASH hangs from their BELTS. Except for the LEADER-he wears a RED SASH. They all carry 3-ft WALKING CANES.

Kana scowls at Alina.

KANA

Rippers?

Kana sees that Alina scared. He faces the Rippers.

KANA

Passing through, Gentlemen.

The Leader steps forward.

LEAD RIPPER

'*Passin' thru*', huh? '*Passin' thru*'.
Hmm. Don't think so. Nah, this here's
a swindle. And that there's my H2O.

KANA

My mistake. We can trade?

The *Rippers* glare at Kana. Then they ogle Alina.

RIPPER TWO

His jacket's a dandy.

KANA

The jacket? Sure.

LEAD RIPPER

And the *babygirl*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

The girl?

LEAD RIPPER

Yeah, the Broad. See, only got one left, but she's a skank.

(Nods toward Alina)

This one's fresh. And it's been a long time since I tasted one that ripe.

The Rippers laugh callously. Alina's terrified. Kana removes his JACKET, calmly hands it to Alina.

KANA

(To Alina)

Close your eyes.

Alina closes her eyes. Tight. Kana looks at the *Rippers*.

KANA

You seem like reasonable fellas. So, let's be reasonable.

The Leader smiles, devilishly.

LEAD RIPPER

Get a load'a this Palooka, Boys.

The *Ripper's* Leader nods to his men. They draw SABRE BLADES from their *Walking Canes*. They RUSH at Kana.

KANA

(To himself)

Should've taken the jacket.

Kana pulls out two OBSIDIAN, *CURVED KARAMBIT DAGGERS*. Each handle has a SILVER HOWLING WOLF effigy.

Kana moves like a *Panther*. He kills the First *Ripper* by slicing his FEMORAL ARTERY. The Second *Ripper* has his JUGULAR slashed. Kana then thrusts his blade up and through the Third *Ripper's* JAW, into his BRAIN. Then, Kana throws his SECOND DAGGER at the Fourth *Ripper*, piercing his HEART.

The *Leader* belts out a WAR CRY and charges Kana.

Kana catches the *Leader's* HAND, SNAPS his wrist. The *Ripper* drops his sabre. Then, Kana buries his Blade through the top of the *Ripper's* Green Bowler Hat and into his head.

Kana removes the knife. All five *Rippers* are dead.

Kana goes back to Alina, wiping his blades off with the red sash, shaking his head. Alina's TREMBLES. Kana takes his jacket from Alina. Alina opens her eyes, tries to see the CARNAGE. But Kana gently turns her head away.

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CONTINUED:

KANA

Food for nightmares, *Mika Nukka*.

Alina doesn't understand the words, but gets the intent.

KANA

You have people? Somewhere to go?

Alina points down a street. They walk, turn a corner.

KANA

What were you doin' out here any-

PHWOOSH, THUD

Kana stops mid-sentence. Looks down and sees an ARROW BOLT lodged in his CHEST. He looks up and sees SIX late-TEEN BOYS. All dressed in rags like Alina, holding CROSS-BOWS.

Kana falls to a KNEE. Breathes heavily. Alina looks at the Boys and WILDLY gesticulates (*in SIGN LANGUAGE*). DRAKE (19, street smart and inquisitive), moves toward Alina.

DRAKE

You forgot something.

Drake plops a BASEBALL CAP on Alina's head. Points to Kana.

DRAKE

Who's he?

Alina *Signs* something to Drake, that piques his interest.

DRAKE

Six *Rippers*? By himself?
(Off of something Alina *signs*)
A '*Mercario*' you reckon?

Drake is in awe. Alina *signs* again, imploring Drake.

DRAKE

Ok, fine. But he's your baggage.

Alina nods, happily. Meanwhile, Kana *passes out*.

11 **INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT** 11

Kana's being carried through a TUNNEL. All is a blur.

12 **INT. HATCHWAY ENTRANCE - NIGHT** 12

Kana's dragged up steep metal STAIRS through a HATCHWAY.

13 **INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT** 13

Kana's on a STRETCHER being moved along. A woman (SOFIA, late-30s, intelligent and kind) hovers over him.

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CONTINUED:

Kana hears a gravelly voice of a MAN, somewhere behind him.

MAN (OS)
 Seven Rippers?
 (a beat)
 A 'Mercario'? And you bring him here?

Kana then hears the soothing voice of an OLDER MAN.

OLDER MAN (OS)
 Left your hat, my dear.

Kana succumbs to the darkness.

14 INT. LAB/SICK BAY - DAY

14

Kana wakes. Sees Sofia in front of a COMPUTER, surrounded by various LAB equipment. Alina sits on a CHAIR next to Kana's bed, reading. She looks up at Kana, smiles. Kana smiles back.

Sofia turns.

SOFIA
 Oh. Hey, you. Welcome back.

Kana looks at the BANDAGES wrapped around his chest.

KANA
 Little shit got me dead-to-rights.

SOFIA
 The wound's mostly healed... It's remarkable actually. I've never-

The DOOR opens. In enters GREGOR (mid-40s, a battle-weary protector, calloused by hardship). Gregor looks at Sofia.

SOFIA
 He just woke up.

Gregor scrutinizes Kana.

GREGOR
 Got a name?

KANA
 I do.

GREGOR
 Why you millin' around the *sub-skirts*?

KANA
 Minding my own business.

Gregor goes to a TABLE, unlocks a hidden draw. Pulls Kana's WEAPONS out: A set of Karambit Knives (*Mercario Blades*) and a sheathed GILDED DAGGER. Kana tenses.

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CONTINUED:

Gregor picks up to the *Mercario Blades*.

GREGOR
Mercario blades.

KANA
Oh? So, that's what they are?

GREGOR
You huntin' solo?

KANA
Do hunters normally get shot?

GREGOR
Hmm. *The Nine* hunt as a pack. No lone wolves. So either you stole these, or *The Nine's* down to *One*.

Kana looks away.

SOFIA
He needs rest, G.

GREGOR
He needs to go.

15 INT. DAGON TOWER - BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

15

Bastian--donned in a flowing BLACK VELVET ROBE--eats at a resplendent table.

In the corners of this chamber, are Bastian's mountainous ELITE PALADIN GUARDS; differentiated by their MONK-like uniforms and shiny BLACK SPEARS.

Gibbons enters the room. He holds a TABLET computer. He faces Bastian. (*Neither man has aged a day in 30 years.*)

GIBBONS
There was a disturbance in the *sub skirts* yesterday. A security drone captured footage of the event.

Gibbons approaches Bastian with the TABLET.

GIBBONS
Retina recognition detected an anomaly. THE anomaly.

He shows Bastian video footage of *Kana killing the Rippers*.

BASTIAN
Hiding in plain sight.

GIBBONS
Auspicious timing, my Lord. Especially with the Alignment approaching.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN
Initiate the "*Hummingbird Protocol*."

Gibbons dutifully nods. Exits the chamber. Bastian smiles.

16 **EXT. LAB/SICK BAY - NIGHT**

16

Kana WAKES. Hears voices. Sees Alina asleep. He then sees Sofia and BRADLEY, (mid-60s, socially awkward + wears black-framed GLASSES) studying something via a MICROSCOPE.

SOFIA
Have you ever seen cellular
regeneration this advanced?

BRADLEY
I have. But it was many years ago.

SOFIA
Were they bio-enhanced?

BRADLEY
No. Yet they were... unique.

SOFIA
This could be a breakthrough.

BRADLEY
I concur. Keep testing. And we'll
discuss once I return from the city.

KANA (OS)
You can get into the city?

Sofia and Bradley turn simultaneously.

BRADLEY
Hello. I'm Bradley, Alina's ward.

KANA
Could you get me into New-Hallah?

BRADLEY
These are precarious times, my friend.

KANA
More than you know.

Bradley pauses, and studies Kana for a moment.

BRADLEY
Scuttlebutt has it that you terminated
eight *Rippers*?

SOFIA
Um, Bradley, we don't know this man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

True. But an escort of his stature might prove advantageous. One that's-

KANA

Expendable.

BRADLEY

I was going to say; formidable. We-

Alina starts to TALK loudly in her sleep. Various languages.

ALINA

(Eyes closed, in a trance)

Ego te voco, Princeps autem Lux. Se kaló Kidemónas des Galaxías.

Kana holds his head in INTENSE agony. Bradley wakes Alina. Kana's pain stops. Alina's disoriented.

BRADLEY

She gets nightmares.

SOFIA

(To Kana)

Are you okay?

KANA

Yeah. It's... the uh, the meds.

Bradley and Sofia are puzzled, as Kana looks at Alina.

BRADLEY

Reconvene in the morning, shall we?

Bradley nods to Alina. She gets up and smiles sympathetically at Kana. She *Signs* something then leaves with Bradley.

Sofia sighs, warily. She turns back to her work as Kana rubs his head, still in significant pain.

17 INT. GREGOR & SOFIA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

17

Gregor stands behind a desk. He faces Bradley.

GREGOR

Get the skinny from a merchant.

BRADLEY

Dagon's leadership haven't made a public appearance in twenty-years. So, whatever they're announcing is too consequential to rely on gossip. And because you refuse me an escort, I propose an alternative.

Gregor thinks for a moment, and then realizes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR

The *Mercario*? Are you nuts?

BRADLEY

Far from it. Firstly, our interests are aligned. Secondly, we owe him reciprocity for Alina. And lastly, we need to keep him close.

GREGOR

Why?

BRADLEY

Because... he may hold the key to the survival of our species.

Gregor looks at Bradley in disbelief.

GREGOR

Sofia should check you for scurvy.

Bradley's face remains deadly serious.

18 **EXT. BRADLEY'S ROOM - MORNING**

18

Kana wears a HOOD. Door closes, hood's removed. Kana's sees his CLOTHES and WEAPONS are on Bradley's DESK.

The room's packed with BOOKS, PAPERS and academic ARTIFACTS. Along the WALLS are MAPS, images of GLYPHS and SIGILS, old black and white PHOTOS of historical figures. Scientific jargon and sketches also litter the wall. A RED THREAD connects the various images.

In the corner of the room is a BUNK BED. On top is Alina. Hair tied back with a BLUE SCRUNCHY. She grins at Kana.

Flanking Kana is VIC (early-40s, big, burly) and NICKY (mid-30s, sinewy. Half his face is SCARRED.)

Vic glares at Kana. Nicky wears a cavalier smile.

KANA

So, what's the verdict?

BRADLEY

You accompany me. But on my terms.

KANA

Which are?

VIC

Do what he says. When he says.

Nicky walks toward Bradley's desk. Looks at Kana's *Blades*.

KANA

And you are?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICKY

Nicky. I believe you met my older,
heinously uglier brother, Gregor?

KANA

(To Vic)

And you?

VIC

The guy who'll gut you like a-

BRADLEY

Victor is our head of security.

Bradley grabs CLOTHES from a CHEST.

NICKY

A *Mercario*? Grapevine claims you ding-
donged nine *Rippers* like;
(Snaps his fingers)
...wham bam thank ya ma'am.

Nicky notices a SHEATHED, Gilded DAGGER, nuzzled into a
leather SHOULDER HOLDER. He puts his hand on it-

KANA

Curiosity killed the cat.

NICKY

(Placating)

Good thing I got nine lives!

Bradley tosses Kana a UNIFORM. It's dark grey, with a GREEN
trim. A PATCH reads: "Research Lead - DAGON, Inc."

BRADLEY

Get dressed.

19 **EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM - VENUS**

19

A large COMET, shrouded in gaseous debris, passes VENUS.

20 **EXT. SUBSKIRTS OF NEW-HALLAH - DAY**

20

Kana's HOOD is removed. He sees they're beneath an UNDERPASS
of a broken BRIDGE, next to the *Hudson River*. He's with Vic,
Nicky, and Bradley. A quarter-a-mile away is, NEW-HALLAH.

Vic aggressively nudges Kana toward Bradley. Kana notices
Alina's BLUE SCRUNCHY on Bradley's wrist.

BRADLEY

We're entering via the *Hudson Gate*.
You'll escort me to the *Mall* for the
speech. Once we're back here, you can
return the same way we entered.

Kana feels something inside the BACK COLLAR of his Uniform.

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CONTINUED:

KANA
Stigma's in the collar?

BRADLEY
It'll get you through security.

Kana looks incredulously at Vic and Nicky.

NICKY
Hey... you saddled up to be the mule.

Bradley has started to walk away. Kana follows.

21 **EXT. NEW HALLAH--HUDSON GATE - DAY**

21

Kana and Bradley approach the BORDER GATE into *New-Hallah*. The Gate is big enough to fit two ROADS and WALKWAYS.

Protecting the border are PALADINS. Their UNIFORMS are a dark charcoal color with a crimson trim. Their carbon-fiber HELMETS are a contemporary version of a VIKING helmet.

Each side of the walkways and roads are CHECK POINTS. Bradley and Kana prepare to pass through the INGRESS check point.

In front of them, a middle-aged MALE TRADER attempts to pass through, but *sets off* a DETECTOR. A light FLASHES YELLOW. Two Paladins promptly surround the TRADER. One of the Paladins uses a GADGET to SCAN the petrified Trader's NECK.

PALADIN 1
No Stigma.

TRADER
But, but, but, I do, I do, I-

The 2nd Paladin grabs the Trader and holds him against a WALL. Checks his JACKET and pulls out a small MICROCHIP.

PALADIN 2
Stigma fraud is a criminal violation, in accordance to Dagon Civil Decree. Prepare for processing and sentencing.

TRADER
We just need food. We're starving.

The Paladin FLIPS the scanning GADGET around and holds it against the Trader's neck. The Paladin presses a TRIGGER and a Stigma is inserted into the Trader's NECK.

TRADER
My family. They, they need me. Please-

Two different PALADINS lead the Trader away. He looks at Kana, desperate. Kana's *jaw clenches*. Bradley gives Kana a *tiny shake of the head* as they approach the ENTRANCEWAY.

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CONTINUED:

The walk slowly. Unlike the Trader, they're able to pass through without a problem. Still, the two Paladin Guards glare at Kana. Kana glares back.

22 **EXT. NEW-HALLAH STREETS - DAY**

22

Kana follows Bradley, who seems to know his way around.

New-Hallah is a cross between DUBAI SKY-SCRAPER aesthetics and old ROMAN ARCHITECTURE. It's a stunning marvel.

The CITIZENS are paragons of physical perfection. All wear prosaic clothes. Meanwhile, there seems to be Paladins everywhere they look. They're on high alert.

They approach a long, narrow PARKWAY MALL. At the end of the Mall is a grandiose CATHEDRAL, with a 200x200-ft RETRACTABLE BRONZE DOME.

BRADLEY

First time in 'New-Hallah'?

KANA

First time in any 'Stath-Hallah'.
Security normally so high?

BRADLEY

No.

Bradley's eyes seem to drift away, and focus on a BUILDING.

Kana follows Bradley's eyes and sees a striking marble BUILDING. A sign outside reads: "DAGON BIO-RESEARCH CENTER"

Next to the Building is a thin COMMS TOWER. Capped by a PYRAMID ENCLOSURE coated in GREY HEXAGONAL TILES, and topped with a GLASS CAPSTONE.

KANA

Why were you and that medic lady
talking about my wounds?

BRADLEY

Uh, your cellular healing is unique. A
genetic aberration, in fact.

KANA

Yeah. That's me. Special.

BRADLEY

But you don't know why.

KANA

And you do?

BRADLEY

No. But I'd like to. If permissible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

What would you get out of it?

BRADLEY

A solution, perhaps.

KANA

For what?

BRADLEY

The future.

Kana pauses, puts his hands on his hips, shakes his head.

KANA

Ah. Ok. You think I can help crack the baby makin' mystery?

BRADLEY

Perhaps. Each and every possibility should be vetted. No matter how-

A LOUD BURST of REGAL TRUMPETS disrupt their conversation.

Kana realizes they're slap-dab in the middle of the *Parkway*.

All CITIZENS stop in unison, and face the *Cathedral*. The DOME retracts to reveal a PODIUM, flanked by two small STAGES, veiled by BLACK CURTAINS. Two VIDEO SCREENS materialize.

The FLAG of DAGON is raised above the podium. *Dagon's SYMBOL is a CIRCLE made up of inverted HAMMERS (THOR'S RUNE) and in the middle of the circle, an upside down STAR, with a RED EYE, with a YELLOW PUPIL, in the center.*

Standing at the Podium is, Bastian.

BASTIAN

Citizens of *New-Hallah*, we are joined today by your Aryan family from Lo-Hallah, To-Hallah and Jo-Hallah for a vital new proclamation.

The video screens show similar Cathedrals and *Parkway Malls* from the three other STATH-HALLAHS. (**London, Tokyo, Joburg**).

BASTIAN

We have tried to be patient with the primitive '*Unterman Species*'. But our benevolent overtures for aid and support must end. For their dying race has become too dangerous. And, as history has taught us, when the *Unterman* feels threatened they resort to cruelty and violence.

The two screens broadcast BLOODY IMAGES of eight DEAD Dagon SCIENTISTS, on the leafy ground of a woods. The Crowd GASP.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN

Just yesterday, a group of our scientists were killed by an *Unterman* mob without cause or provocation.

(An exaggerated sigh)

So, it is with deep sorrow that we must enact a zero tolerance policy, effective within 72 hours. After this, any *Unterman* found within 200 miles of any *Stath-Hallah*, will be apprehended and sent to a reformation camp.

Bastian turns his head, nods to Gibbons.

BASTIAN

However, the most violent among them cannot be reformed. Instead, they'll meet the same fate as those who murdered our innocent Scientists.

Gibbons nods to a MAN, and the BLACK CURTAIN over the LEFT stage opens; Eight men are hanging, disemboweled. Five are the *Rippers* Kana killed. The crowd GASP, then applause.

The RIGHT stage CURTAIN FALLS. Shows six MEN and two WOMEN hanging, disemboweled. All wear similar black TRENCHCOATS. Bradley notices Kana tense up in anger.

BASTIAN

With the impending *Alignment*, your safety is our paramount concern. For nothing will compromise our supreme Aryan vision of everlasting prosperity: '*Peace and Perfection.*'

The Crowd chant back: '*Peace & Perfection*'.

Bradley gives a small shake of his head. Disappointed.

FEMALE SCIENTIST (OS)

John? John?

Bradley pauses. Removes his GLASSES. Turns to see the same FEMALE SCIENTIST from 30+ years ago--now in her mid-60s.

BRADLEY

Um, you're mistaken. I'm Bradley.

FEMALE SCIENTIST

You look like a colleague who I...

Kana grabs Bradley by the arm, firmly ushers him away.

KANA

No time for reunions.

Kana looks back at the Woman. He hurries Bradley along even faster, as swarms of Paladins swamp the streets.

23 **EXT. NEW-HALLAH--OUTSIDE THE HUDSON GATES - DAY**

23

Kana and Bradley are 300 yards from the Gates.

BRADLEY
Will you return?

KANA
I got my answers.
(Beat)
They were swinging on the stage.

Bradley looks at Kana.

KANA
Now I have different questions.

24 **EXT. SUBSKIRTS OF NEW-HALLAH - DAY**

24

Bradley and Kana reunite with Nicky and Vic under the BRIDGE.

NICKY
Sounds like Dagon's ready to rumble.

Bradley nods. Kana grabs his stuff. Vic stares at Kana.

VIC
Off you fuck, *Mercario*.

Kana glares at Vic, squares up, ready to fight, when-

PALADIN CAPTAIN (OS)
Identify yourselves.

A squad of Seven Paladins. In the middle is their CAPTAIN.
The Squad simultaneously draw their WEAPONS.

PALADIN CAPTAIN
Get on your knees, *Untermen*.

Nicky looks at Bradley and Vic and whispers softly.

NICKY
We gotta skin-out.

Bradley nods in agreement. But, Kana's unmoved.

PALADIN CAPTAIN
I said get on your knees, NOW!

Kana's face is clenched in fierce anger. Bradley notices.

BRADLEY
Kana. Please. Stop.

Kana kicks up an old STOP SIGN from the street, and then FRISBEES it at the Paladin Captain with such ferocity, it knocks the Captain half way back to his childhood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana grabs his *Gilded Dagger* and throws it at one of the Paladins in the CHEST. The remaining Paladins open fire.

Nicky, Vic and Bradley TAKE COVER and watch Kana.

Kana moves rapidly, dodging bullets. He retrieves his *Dagger* from the First Paladin, then seemingly bounces it off the ground and up into the throat of a Second Paladin.

Again, Kana zig-zags to fetch his *Dagger*. When he gets to it this time, the *Dagger* seemingly JUMPS from the Paladin's neck, up into his hand, like they're kinetically connected.

Kana kills the remaining Paladins; His *Dagger* pings off of walls, the street, cars, scrap metal, to slay each target. Once the killing is complete, Kana returns to the others, cleaning his *Dagger* with a RAG.

VIC

Moron! Now we're in their cross-hairs.

KANA

You're already a target.

NICKY

Uh, he ain't wrong, Vic.

Vic glares at Kana, as Bradley stares at the carnage.

BRADLEY

(To Kana)

We can offer shelter.

KANA

And be your *Guinea Pig*? No thanks.

BRADLEY

We have more pressing matters to contend with. Matters men like you know how to handle.

Kana thinks. Then, spots Alina's blue SCRUNCHY.

KANA

Mmm. Fine. Two days, max.

VIC

Bullshit. This psycho can't be privy to where we privy.

Kana points to the middle of the HUDSON RIVER. Where there is a stationary AIRCRAFT CARRIER. 200 yards to the portside of the Carrier is a half-submerged FERRY. And 300 yards from the starboard side is a rusted-out FISHING TRAWLER.

KANA

Old *Lincoln Tunnel* to *The Intrepid*?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICKY
 (To Vic)
 Told ya he clocked it.
 (Beat)
 Besides, we could use the iron. Geez,
 the guy just purged a Paladin platoon
 and snuffed out twelve *Rippers*.

Bradley surreptitiously GRABS the RAG Kana used to clean his
 Dagger, as the others start to walk away.

Kana strides out in front of Nicky and Vic.

KANA
 Five. It was five *Rippers*.

25 INT. THE INTREPID--PASSAGEWAY - DAY

25

Kana walks through a set of passageways aboard the USS
 Intrepid, Aircraft Carrier. What was an old *Naval Museum*, has
 been converted into a home for hundreds of humans.

Kana follows Bradley into a READY-ROOM.

26 INT. THE INTREPID--READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Inside the room are a dozen COUNCIL LEADERS. Gregor sits at
 the head of the TABLE, with his brother Nicky, Sofia and Vic
 on either side of him. Tension is heavy.

Also in the room is: Sargent-at-Arms, BIG T, (early-50s).
 Medical Officer, MONI, (early-60s,). Head Engineer, JOE
 (late-50s). And his daughter JULES (late-20s).

BRADLEY
 From what I could ascertain, they're
 preparing for mass extermination.

MONI
 You're talkin' genocide?

SOFIA
 We're already going extinct.

JOE
 Not at a suitable rate, it seems.

MONI
 But this is our home.

SOFIA
 A safe haven.

GREGOR
 So, you wanna cross-swords?

KANA
 Then you'll lose.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC
Shut your ass, *Mercario*.

GREGOR
Hey. Hey. Pipe down.
(To Nicky)
Why so tight lipped, Kid?

NICKY
Bein' honest, I think they aim to
clear the board stem to stern, G.

A few grumble. Jules looks at Nick, and smiles.

BRADLEY
To them, we're a threat.

JULES
A threat? Us? Gimme a damn break.

Bradley turns his attention to Kana.

BRADLEY
Please share what happened to your
Sect. They need to understand.

KANA
(Draws a deep breath)
Week ago, we were contracted to carry
out an op. We showed up at the dead
drop, but it was a trap.

VIC
Reap what you sow.

Kana looks menacingly at Vic.

KANA
Run that mouth again, and you'll reap
the whirlwind.

BRADLEY
(Raised voice)
The executed on display; Some were
Rippers. But the others...?

KANA
Trophies.

SOFIA
The *Mercario* sect? All of them?

Kana looks away.

JOE
We're no threat like the *Nine*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA
'*Sacrificum Est Salvum*'? Hmm?

Kana nods to a TATTOO on Gregor's forearm: *Double-Headed BLACK EAGLE, Sword in one Talon, and a Gun in the other.* Encircled by the Latin phrase: '*Sacrificum Est Salvum*'.

KANA
To '*Sacrifice is to Save*'? Isn't that the motto of the *Jersey Dragoons*? The rebel army who fought the *Mizzou Militia* for seven years?
(Beat)
Half of you were *Dragoons*. Hmm?

Gregor, Nicky, Sofia, Big T, Joe - all have the same *Tattoo*.

KANA
If I know. They know.

GREGOR
Ok. We gotta weigh our druthers.

KANA
Be me you, I'd cut 'n run.

JOE
Don't worry, Son. This *Old Girl* proffers a few tricks by-and-by.

KANA
Tricks?
(Shakes his head)
Tricks.

Kana abruptly leaves. As he exits, he sees Alina and Drake EAVESDROPPING outside the DOOR. Kana walks away.

27 **INT. THE INTREPID--BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - NIGHT**

27

Kana faces the wall with the PHOTOS, MAPS, and DRAWINGS.

As Bradley quietly enters, he notices a BIRTH MARK/SIGIL on Kana's back: A *Triangle* on top of a *Cross*, with an image of the *Sun* inside the *Triangle*, bookended by *White Wings*.

Kana grabs a old PHOTO from the wall, hands it to Bradley.

KANA
Who are they?

INSERT PICTURE: HITLER, GORING and HIMMLER, with four SS OFFICERS. One is '*Bastian*'. A RED CIRCLE rings his face. Another red circle rings *Himmler's* face. 'GIBBONS' FACE.

BRADLEY
There was once a war that consumed the whole world. On one side there was a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
 race of people who believed there was only one pure faction of humanity. All others were impure abominations. And mankind could only achieve perfection, if they were annihilated.

KANA
 What happened?

BRADLEY
 The 'impure' fought back and won. As for the the leaders of this 'pure race'; they killed themselves.

KANA
 'Cept these two.

BRADLEY
 The founders of Dagon.

KANA
 How old are they?

BRADLEY
 Old enough to be an abomination.

28 INT. THE INTREPID--ENGINE ROOM DECK - NIGHT

28

Vic's wearing a ragged PEACOCK and HOODIE. He silently approaches the LINCOLN TUNNEL HATCHWAY.

SARGE (OS)
 Evening, Chief.

SARGE (female, mid-30s) is with a CORPORAL (male, mid-40s). Both are SMOKING. Vic's caught off guard.

VIC
 Headin' out on a reccy.

CORPORAL
 Need wingmen, Chief?

VIC
 Sargent, would you kindly remind Corporal Dipshit, what's the Number One rule of *stealth recon*?

SARGE
 "Less is more."

Vic's fierce expression, prompts the Corporal to open the Hatchway. Vic descends downward. The Hatchway closes. The Sargent and Corporal give each other puzzled looks.

29 INT. THE INTREPID--BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

29

Kana's looking at other imagery on Bradley's *wall of weird*:

Kana points to two SIGILS. One looks exactly like the mark on his back. The other, is a *TRIANGLE*, bookended by *BLACK TRUMPETS*, with a *CROSS* in the middle, and an eye on top.

KANA

Do you know what these mean?

BRADLEY

Not specifically. But I do know versions of them have been around for thousands of years, and show up in hundreds of civilizations.

Kana points to the SIGIL with the *BLACK TRUMPETS*.

KANA

This one's familiar.

A small *COUGH* from the door. Alina's in the room. She points to the Sigil, then lifts up her *SHIRT*. Bradley stops her.

BRADLEY

You're not a little girl, anymore.

Alina is embarrassed. When she turns around, Bradley pulls Alina's *HAIR* into a *PONYTAIL* with the *Blue Scrunchy*. Alina then lifts her shirt to reveal a *SIGIL* on her back.

This is the one framed by the *Black Trumpets*.

BRADLEY

It's a birth mark.

Alina *signs* to Bradley, points to Kana's back.

BRADLEY

Yes. Very similar.

Kana sees a picture of a *CAVE* wall, with Sigils and Glyphs.

KANA

I know this place.

BRADLEY

(Animated)

You do? These *Petroglyphs* are the key to understanding the *Sigils*.

KANA

(Beat)

First, tell me about '*John*'.

Bradley inhales, nervously.

30 **EXT. THE INTREPID--FORE DECK - NIGHT**

30

Kana follows Bradley around *The Intrepid's* deck.

This is also the first time Kana has seen the community. CANOPIES and MARQUEES. CROPS and FRUIT gardens. Gathering areas for eating or trading goods.

BRADLEY

John was a genetic engineer, who developed a formula for producing flawless anthropoids.

KANA

You perfected test tube babies.

BRADLEY

An oversimplification, but... yes.

KANA

You're one of 'em?

BRADLEY

An early version.

KANA

How'd you perfect the formula?

BRADLEY

There was an infant whose cellular genomes could mutate DNA at the molecular level.

KANA

Into what?

BRADLEY

Unclear. Our job was to develop a viral delivery system. Then, a lab malfunction damaged my Stigma. I started to feel... different.

KANA

Stigmas control emotions, yea?

BRADLEY

The infant, and it's mother.
(Bradley stops walking)
I helped them escape. Because it felt-

KANA

Wrong.

Bradley nods. Lowers his eyes, ashamed.

KANA

What happened to them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

The mother died. The baby...

Bradley glances at Kana. Adjusts his glasses.

BRADLEY

The infant's genetic structure was an anomaly. He was also born with an unusual birthmark. Until two days ago, his whereabouts were unknown.

Kana look questioningly at Bradley, who then nods, deadly serious. Kana looks incredulous, then laughs mockingly.

Bradley's expression doesn't change. Kana shakes his head, contemptuously.

31 INT. THE INTREPID--LAB/SICK BAY - NIGHT

31

Sofia, Bradley, and Kana gathered near a COMPUTER MONITOR.

KANA

Your friend seems to think my DNA is some kind of magical elixir.

SOFIA

I don't know about magical. But it is mysterious... and ubiquitous.

Bradley and Kana both look quizzically at Sofia.

Sofia goes to the computer. Next to it is the BLOODY RAG Bradley had picked up. She's analyzing a glass slide.

SOFIA

I found protein markers in the blood of the dead Paladins that's similar to Kana's molecular mutation.

BRADLEY

So, they developed a viral delivery system after all?

SOFIA

Yes. But the mutation's dormant.

KANA

Meaning?

Sofia shows a different screen, displaying a STRAND OF DNA.

SOFIA

DNA is an organism's genetic blueprint. But, we're looking at a latent molecule in this DNA. We have no idea what happens if it's activated. But given it's Dagon it can't be good. And without more data,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (CONT'D)
we're flying blind.

Kana pauses, looks at Bradley.

KANA
The cave wall with the glyphs? It's
near a village I once called *home*.

32 **EXT. SUBSKIRTS OF NEW-HALLAH--MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT** 32

Gibbons enters an old, abandoned THEATER, accompanied by a cadre of Paladins. A large MAN wearing a hoodie awaits.

33 **INT. THE INTREPID--READY ROOM - NIGHT** 33

Sofia, Bradley and Kana are with Gregor and Nicky. Tension is thick in the air.

GREGOR
So, you wanna take Alina to Kana's
home in the North? That a joke?

NICKY
If so, what's the punchline?

SOFIA
Look, Dagon declares a genocidal
policy outta the blue. And then we
discover they've been juicing their
people with a freaky formula
engineered from Kana's DNA. But we
have no idea if it's benign or
malignant. We need to know why.

NICKY
How does Alina and Kana factor?

BRADLEY
They share a hereditary connection.
Which is similar to the DNA found in
the Paladins. And Kana's village
contains information that'll help us
comprehend this genetic bond, thereby
clarify what we're facing. Without
this knowledge we're in the dark.

SOFIA
While they do that, I'm gonna work
with Jules to amplify the aperture of
the DNA samples by rigging together a
thermal magnification microscope.
That'll give us a much closer look at
Dagon's bizarro DNA.

NICKY
I heard a lot of words. But none made
a lick 'o sense.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

(To Nicky)

Basically, Bradley wants to see some cave paintings and Sofia needs a bigger microscope.

NICKY

Ah. Ok. Got it. Sorta. Kinda.

Gregor frowns as he thinks.

GREGOR

"If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you'll also suffer a defeat."

NICKY

(To Bradley, annoyed)

Ugh. You never shoulda given him that Art of horseshit hoey.

Sofia places her hand on Gregor's.

GREGOR

Fine. You have forty-eight hours. Vic and Drake will chaperone.

Sofia leans her head toward Gregor's. Their foreheads touch. She holds his face and nods reassuringly.

34 **INT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - MORNING**

34

Nicky and Gregor watch a HIGH-SPEED HOVERCRAFT zipping away from the Intrepid.

NICKY

You really buying this mind trip?

GREGOR

Bradley and Sof don't do delusional.

NICKY

You trust the *Mercario*?

GREGOR

If he wanted us dead, it'd be so.

NICKY

(Beat)

A bad moon's risin', brother.

GREGOR

Yep. And trouble's on the way, kid.

Gregor and Nicky share a sardonic smile.

Kana's with Drake, Vic, Bradley and Alina as they travel along the Hudson River, in a 40-ft long, super-fast 'HYDRO-JUMPER'. Drake has a STAFF and a CROSSBOW. Vic has a MACHETE.

Kane looks around the boat. Then at Drake.

KANA

This *Hydro-Jumper's* military-grade.

DRAKE

The ol' Naval stations down South are fulla toys. We even found a Rail-

VIC

Shut your glory hole, boy.

Drake zips up. Sheepishly walks away. Kana and Vic glare at each other. Bradley gestures for Kana to follow him up front.

KANA

(Nods at Vic)

He always so chummy?

BRADLEY

Well... Your Sect killed his brother.

KANA

(Beat)

"*Defend the vulnerable. Punish the wicked.*" That's the *Nine's* code. So, if we killed him, he had it coming.

BRADLEY

Vic's brother was, a man of, carnage.

Then they reach the front of the boat. Alina's wrapped in BLANKETS. Drake's next to her. They laugh and giggle.

DRAKE

(To Kana)

Hey! It true *Mercarios* start training when they're *Nine*?

Kana hesitates before responding.

KANA

The *Elder* trains the *Cub* for nine years. Then once the *cub's* able to hunt with the *Pack*, the *Elder* hibernates. And the cycle repeats.

DRAKE

I heard legends about the *Nine*; Like the stand at *Roanoke*. The attack on *Newberry*. The defense of *Allentown*.

(Looks at Vic)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DRAKE (CONT'D)

Vic thinks the *Nine* are murderers.
But, I say you're warriors.

Kana looks out to the water and beyond, pensive.

KANA

Where I'm from the biggest threat to survival is the environment.

(Beat)

One year there was a bad harvest, followed by a deadly winter. Our people were dying. So, a young hunter decided to hike fifty-miles from the village in search of food.

(Beat)

After two days she reached a ravine overlooking a river. There, she heard a baby crying. But as she leant over the ridge to look, the edge gave way, and she fell down the ravine. Broke two of her fingers and an ankle.

Drake and now Alina are facing Kana. Enthralled.

KANA

Instead of tending to her wounds, she searched for the baby. Eventually finding them by the river's edge. She then set her leg, swaddled the infant, and decided to climb back up the ravine. Which made no sense. Even if they survived the climb, the elements'd probably kill them. So, why did she try?

(Inhales)

I know this hunter. I was the baby.

(Beat)

To her this wasn't a choice. To her, there was no greater honor than being called to safeguard the light of a new life. So, despite the odds, she climbed back up the ravine and returned to her village, where both she and the baby survived. Some of the elders said it was a miracle. But to me, it was no miracle. It was courage.

(Looks at Drake)

That's... that's a real warrior.

DRAKE

What does that make you?

KANA

(Looks away)

A weapon.

Drake nods to himself. Alina stares at Kana, sympathetically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Meanwhile at the back: Vic places small METAL BUTTON under the STEERING WHEEL. The button starts to FLASH RED.

36 **EXT. RIVER ALCOVE/TUNDRIA TERRITORY - MORNING**

36

The boat pulls up to a DOCK, in front of a snow blanketed FOREST. A WATERFALL is on the other side of the Cove. Kana and crew set foot on the rocky waterfront.

VIC

Where you taking us? I'm freezin-

Kana suddenly puts up his HAND to silence Vic.

KANA

Put down your weapons, slowly.

VIC

Fackin' trap. Knew it.

A TRIBE of elderly MEN and WOMEN emerge from the FOREST, in WHITE FURS. They have BOWS & ARROWS. They're the Inuit. Vic and the others reluctantly drop their WEAPONS.

Alina glances at Kana, confused. He gives her a reassuring look, and then addresses the tribespeople.

KANA

Sekoa en'nasha keyori kenonta.

The OLDEST WOMAN walks up to Kana.

ELDER WOMAN

Ónhka ní'se'?

KANA

'K'enka O'anya.' *Sekoh kahi...* *'Kana'.*

The Elder Woman studies Kana's face... SMILES, embraces him. They touch foreheads. The Elder Woman SPEAKS to her people:

ELDER WOMAN

Ka'hui ehar, 'K'enka O'anya'.

They SMILE, at ease. They approach Kana's RAG-TAG GROUP.

BRADLEY

What did you say?

KANA

We're on a quest to speak to their chieftain, my mother; *'K'enka.'*

37 **EXT. INUIT TRIBAL VILLAGE - DAY**

37

The Village is built in front of a large CAVE. It's modest, but busy. TENTS, GARDENS, and a SWEAT LODGE. And no Tribesperson is below the age of Forty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The biggest TENT is that of the CHIEFTAN. The crew approach that tent. Kana's mother; K'ENKA O'ANYA (80s, poised, elegant and wise), emerges in her CHIEFTAN GARB, with a walking CANE.

She walks with a LIMP, over to Kana. She looks at him with a hint of sorrow. But when Kana smiles, her sorrow fades. He tenderly holds her face and kisses her forehead.

The Tribe surround the visitors. Genially fawning over them.

38 INT. THE INTREPID--LAB/SICK BAY - DAY

38

Sofia's working with Jules on wiring up a POWER-SOURCE to a makeshift SERVER, which is wired to a COMPUTER attached to a large MICROSCOPE. It looks like it's being held together with bubblegum and duct-tape.

Jules stands over a set of PLUGS, nods to Sofia. Sofia nods back. Jules connects the plugs together... NOTHING HAPPENS. Then Jules KICKS the server, and everything TURNS ON. Sofia checks the computer and smiles at Jules.

39 INT. INUIT CAVE - DAY

39

Kana and crew sit with the Tribal ELDERS. Vic's at the front of the Cave, continuously checking a WATCH on his WRIST.

Various images and carvings on the CAVE WALLS match the images from Bradley's room.

K'enka speaks to Kana in her native tongue. Kana translates.

KANA

These are legends passed down generation to generation over many moons. So, translation is 'iffy'.

(Listening to K'enka speak)

Alina's Sigil has many meanings: Messenger, Summoner... Herald.

BRADLEY

And yours?

KANA

Guardian. Prince. Regent... 'iffy'.

Bradley looks at a section of the wall with different words.

BRADLEY

This is Aramaic; An ancient language.

KANA

What does it say?

BRADLEY

It refers to warriors called 'Archangels'; their names were: 'Gabrael, Michael, Raphael and Urael.'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alina points to her Sigil and the Aramaic translation.

BRADLEY

It's a name; *Yaweh*. Means... '*The Word of God*'.

Alina then touches an IMAGE on the Wall, of STARS in the NIGHT SKY. She signs something to Drake.

DRAKE

She thinks these images are about an ability to *speak to*, or *summon* something, *celestial*?

Alina nods, then notices a different IMAGE of an OBJECT in the NIGHT SKY. It spooks her. She signs to Drake.

DRAKE

She thinks this is the *Zaravan Comet*. But, it's not a comet. It's a, '*transport*' or a '*vessel*'?

Alina signs again to Drake.

DRAKE

She's sees the *Comet* in her dreams. Thinks it's filled with, '*Monsters*'?

VIC

Monsters? What in the actual fuck?

Alina touches the Wall, fearfully. K'enka goes to Alina. Touches her arm and speaks. Kana translates.

KANA

"I also have nightmares... I sense millions of lost souls trapped behind a veil. I can hear their wailing in the wind. Taste their tears in the rain. See their sorrow in the Sun. Feel their fear in the dark.

(Beat)

Maybe, our dreams are the same; Only that one skims the water's surface, while the other lingers beneath."

K'enka can still sense Alina's fear. She holds her hand, and speaks once more. Kana smiles, translates again.

KANA

"When it feels like the stars are all fading, kindle the cosmos with the sparkle of your smile".

(Beat)

It's an old proverb.

K'enka takes a BEADED BRACELET from her wrist and puts it on Alina's arm. Alina nods a gesture of '*thanks*'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everyone starts to exit the cave.

While this occurs, Kana studies the wall with his Sigil. It also includes an INDENTED ENGRAVING, in the shape of a DAGGER. Above, is a similar engraving, but for a SWORD.

Kana rubs his fingers along the edges of the engraving.

BRADLEY (OS)
In search of *Excalibur*?

Kana notices Bradley has hung back, surprising him.

KANA
Who's '*Excalibur*'?

BRADLEY
Not a *who*. A *what*; *Excalibur* was a legendary sword that belonged to a mythical king.

KANA
Sounds like everything else here;
fairytales wrapped in superstition.

Bradley points to a set of symbols: A CROSS, STAR of DAVID, a YING/YANG, a CRESCENT & STAR.

BRADLEY
Do you know what these are?

KANA
Spiritual symbols.

BRADLEY
They used to be known as *religions*.
(Points to the CROSS)
Take this one: For thousands of years, millions of people believed that a Son of a God, lived amongst us. His teachings became so popular, that leaders feared his influence. So they had him executed. But what this man taught, persevered. Magnificent monuments were built to worship him. Wars were fought in his name. Men enriched themselves by proxy.

(Beat)
The most enduring ideologies have always begun with an elemental truism. Which was then appropriated by the powerful to sustain their sovereignty. And over time, they who write our history, embellished the truth to enhance their agenda. But, regardless of how these stories have been written and rewritten, do you believe it's possible this supposed '*Son of God*'

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
 was real? That he could walk on water?
 Heal the blind? Rise from the dead?

KANA
 No more than I can fly.

BRADLEY
 What if I were to tell you he was a
 real man? His name was *Jesus of*
Nazereth. He was a carpenter. Just an
 ordinary man with extraordinary ideas.

KANA
 So, the '*son of a god*' stories were
 untrue?

BRADLEY
 Whether it's scripture or myth,
 there's always an ordinary truth
 behind an extraordinary story.

KANA
 So, you believe all this mumbo-jumbo?

BRADLEY
 If the ordinary can be transformed
 into the extraordinary, could it work
 the other way around? Could a fairy
 tale be genuine? Could myth be fact?
 Could you believe that to be true?

KANA
 I believe our time's up. And no *Herald*
 or *Regent* or whatever is coming to
 save the day.

A sniffle. Kana looks beyond Bradley. Sees Alina has been
 with them the whole time. She looks at Kana, somewhat
 disappointed with his response. She walks away, despondent.

Kana looks back at the wall with the symbols and frowns.

40 INT. THE INTREPID--LAB/SICK BAY - DAY 40

Sofia's alone, running tests and examining results. She's
 blowing on a hot CUP OF TEA, when-

Her COMPUTER SCREEN flashes a new test RESULT. Sofia reviews
 the data. Her eyes widen, in HORROR. Her cup FALLS to the
 floor, smashing to pieces. She holds a hand to her mouth...

41 EXT. INUIT TRIBAL VILLAGE - DAY 41

Evening approaches. Food is shared around a CAMPFIRE, while
 Bradley confers with the Elders and K'enka.

Drake teaches Alina how to use his CROSS-BOW. Aiming at a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TREE, Drake demonstrates his marksmanship. Drake, then looks up, sees Kana watching them.

DRAKE

Hey, show us what ya got, *Guardian!*

Kana looks at the Cross-Bow and gives Drake a 'seriously' look. Drake glances at his Cross-Bow and remembers.

DRAKE

Oh... that's right. Too soon?

Kana pulls out his *Dagger*-while looking at Drake-HURLS it at the TREE-SPLITTING through Drake's BOLT. Alina grins.

DRAKE

Okay. Okay. I deserved that.

Alina glances over at Kana's mother. She *signs* to Drake.

DRAKE

(To Kana)

Why did they send you to the *Nine*?

KANA

I needed protection. And learn how to be a protector. So, that's what I do. Or, what I used to do, I guess.

Alina looks at Kana, sympathetically.

Kana grabs his *Dagger* from the Tree. Hands it to Alina. Gestures for her to try. Alina takes the *Dagger*. Focuses on the tree, throws... and MISSES.

K'enka HOBBLER over. Looks at Kana and then Alina. To Kana-

K'ENKA

Mika Nukka?

Kana nods. Alina looks back at Kana, exasperated.

KANA

Mika Nukka means; '*little sister*'.

K'enka faces Alina. She speaks and Kana translates.

KANA

"Bind the Dagger to your arm."

Drake hands Alina the *Dagger*. Alina looks at her hand.

KANA

Oh... and put your back into it!

Alina takes a deep breath, Sharply exhales. Hurls the *Dagger* at the tree: BOOM - BULLSEYE. K'enka laughs. Alina smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA
 (To his mother)
 Good to be home and see your joy.

K'enka faces Kana. Holds his arms and shakes her head.

K'ENKA
 A man... but still a boy.

Kana's bemused. K'enka looks at Kana's friends.

K'ENKA
 My spirit shines, because my Boy has
 found his place.

Before Kana responds he feels a slight FLUTTER in the WIND.

THWHOOSH

Kana's face's SPLATTERED with BLOOD. His Mother has a BLACK SPEAR impaled in her chest. She slides down the SPEAR, dead.

Paladins emerge from the FOREST. Including Bastian's *Elite Bodyguard*. They hold BLACK SPEARS. They lower their HOODS.

They're bald, with PAINTED FOREHEADS. All RED, except for one; his is BLACK. His SPEAR's stuck in K'enka's chest. His eyes are an emotionless abyss of darkness and death.

THEN... ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.

GUNS blaze. BULLETS scythe down the tribespeople. Kana fights back. Drake too. But they're outnumbered. Meanwhile, Bradley grabs Alina, hides behind a small BOULDER. Then, Vic appears.

BRADLEY
 Help them, Victor!

Vic KICKS Bradley in the HEAD, PUNCHES Alina in the stomach. Picks her up and runs to the Forest--toward the Paladins. Drake notices, chases after Vic.

DRAKE
 (Shouting to Kana)
 Vic's got Alina.

Kana sees his tribe are mostly dead or dying. He starts to chase when a GRENADE EXPLODES. Everything is blurry, muffled. Kana regains focus, Bradley's over him.

BRADLEY
 Are you hurt?

Kana sits up, looks at the forest.

KANA
 They're going to the *Falls*.
 (Looks at the dying)
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA (CONT'D)
Help as many as you can.

Kana grabs his *Dagger* and a GUN from a dead Paladin.

42 **EXT. FOREST - EVENING**

42

TOP OF THE WATERFALL

Drake chases the Paladins/Vic. Dodging GUNFIRE, he takes out a few Paladins with his CROSS-BOW, until he's out of BOLTS. He turns to his STAFF and sees off another three Paladins, then arrives at a rocky CREST above a large WATERFALL. To one side, is a Paladin TRANSPORT (AIRHAWK).

The *Elite Bodyguards* place Alina on the *AirHawk*, as Vic stands on a large BOULDER, waiting for Drake.

FOREST

Kana is two-hundred yards behind, frantically trying to catch up. He reaches a clearing along the ridge. He notices Alina on the *AirHawk*. And he sees Vic squaring-up to Drake.

TOP OF THE WATERFALL

Vic signals for the other Paladins to stand down. Alina watches with desperation and fear.

VIC
Leave the little runt to me.

Vic holds up his MACHETE. Drake rushes Vic. Vic brushes off Drake's attempts to land a blow. However, Drake does manage to strike Vic's cheek. Drawing blood. Makes Vic very mad.

Vic attacks. BREAKS Drake's Staff in half. Slashes Drake across his chest and legs. Drake stumbles. He bravely picks himself up, but Vic STABS his Machete through Drake's NECK.

Blood BUBBLES in Drake's mouth. He looks over at Alina, CRYING. Then Vic KICKS Drake over the edge of the WATERFALL.

20 YARDS AWAY

Kana sees this horrific scene unfold.

KANA
No!

Kana dashes to the *AirHawk*. Kills more Paladins with the GUN. Runs out of AMMO. Kills another Paladin with his *Dagger*.

Kana, reaches the Crest, where *The Elite Bodyguards* await. Meanwhile, Vic has boarded the *AirHawk*.

Unlike other Paladins, the *Elites* are tougher. But Kana still manages to SLICE and CLEAVE most of them to death.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Only, one *Elite* stands. The one who killed Kana's Mother.

Kana then lunges at the *Lead Guard*, and uses the Pole of the *Guard's* Spear to LEAP-FROG over him. Once behind, Kana CRUSHES the *Guard's* LARYNX using the pole of the Spear.

Then PLUNGES the SPEAR through the *Elite's* head.

The AirHawk is LEAVING. Kana runs toward it. But Vic FIRES a GRENADE, that BLOWS KANA OFF THE RIDGE, over the WATERFALL. Kana HITS THE WATER, unconscious. Sinks to the bottom.

His mind conjures a blurry memory of his Mother.

KANA'S MOTHER (VO)
*"O, great River. O, great Wind. Carry
 him along River. Guide him home with
 the Wind."*

Kana's EYES OPEN.

43 **EXT. DAGON TOWER--BALCONY - NIGHT**

43

Bastian overlooks the City. Gibbons stands beside him.

GIBBONS
 Phase two of the "*Hummingbird
 Protocol*" is ready for operational
 consent, my Lord.

Gibbons hands Bastian a REMOTE CONTROL.

Bastian presses a BUTTON, and suddenly loud music starts playing. It's a Choir singing: "*JERUSALEM*."

Bastian then presses a different button and an LED on the Control starts flashing RED.

Off in the distance, beyond the city, in the derelict wastelands, old BUILDINGS start to tumble down.

MONTAGE

-SQUAD of PALADINS wait in the shadows outside an old BUILDING. Rippers are everywhere. Paladin helmets flash a RED LIGHT. That's when they open fire, and kill everyone.

-A DRONE AIRCRAFT, with a Red Light flashing under it's wings flies over a large RIVER basin. Reaches an old RAIL TRACK, with over three dozen TRAIN CARS attached together. A large GANG of BANDITS populate the trains. The Drone silently emerges from the clouds and BLOWS-UP all the trains.

-Twenty-five MEN on MOTORCYCLES, wearing SKULL-MASKS, and leather VESTS with the name: 'REAPERS' on the back, snake along an abandoned HIGHWAY. Five of the bigger BIKES at the back are dragging screaming PEOPLE--tied up with ropes--behind them. As they turn a corner, they're faced by a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLOCKADE of Paladin TANKS. The Tanks fire GUNS that instantly INCINERATE each of the Bikers. Leaving nothing more than smoldering flesh and melted Skull Masks behind.

-A LARGE BOMBER VTOL, hovers on the edge of Earth's atmosphere. A RED LIGHT under the belly of the craft flashes. Doors open, a small SILVER MISSILE is dropped. It flashes through the clouds toward the top of a forested MOUNTAIN, where there is a set of CAVES populated by a hundred or more PEOPLE, mostly dressed in dirty, torn uniforms. A ragged FLAG outside one of the caves reads: 'MIZZOU MILITIA'. Then the missile hits, and VAPORIZES the entire top of the mountain.

END MONTAGE

Bastian sways with the music. He slowly breathes in and out.

BASTIAN

What a beautiful melody.

44 **EXT. INUIT TRIBAL VILLAGE - NIGHT**

44

Kana emerges from the Forest, carrying DRAKE'S BODY. He beholds the MASSACRE. It's a BLOOD-BATH. No one's alive.

Then, Kana notices Alina's *Blue Scrunchy* hanging haphazardly from a BRANCH. He grabs it. Balls it up in his fist.

Kana's chest heaves in-and-out. His face, frozen in RAGE.

45 **EXT. HIGH SPEED HOVERCRAFT (THE NEMO) - NIGHT**

45

Bradley's at the helm. Drake's BODY is wrapped in a TARP.

KANA

Why'd they take Alina?

Bradley faces Kana.

BRADLEY

Years ago, Dagon developed a way to search for what they called 'Vessels'; Humans who host a benign, symbiotic entity of, um, of unknown origin.

(Beat)

Using years of research, they discovered a pattern in the data. Which gave them the ability to approximate where and when a new 'Vessel' would emerge. That's how they located your Mother.

(A beat)

When I escaped, I took their data to search for the 'other' Vessel.

KANA

Where did you go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

The Mountain region. Where I assumed
the identity of a Doctor.

46 INT. AIRHAWK - NIGHT

46

Alina's hands are bound behind her. She is between two large
Paladin SOLDIERS. Vic is opposite her. She glares at him.

Vic avoids eye contact. He nervously rubs his hands together.
Notices they're encrusted with BLOOD. He folds his arms.

Vic notices Alina's fiery anger.

VIC

I saved hundreds, in exchange for you.
Drake died playing the hero. But I'm
the real fucking hero here.

Alina SPITS in Vic's face.

One of the Paladin Soldiers responds by PUNCHING Alina in the
face. She flops over, unconscious.

Vic bites his lip. Looks at Alina with a hint of guilt.

47 EXT. HIGH SPEED HOVERCRAFT (THE NEMO) - NIGHT

47

KANA

Why a doctor?

BRADLEY

There were no Healers within 200 miles
of the forecasted emergent zone, so it
seemed logical.

(Beat)

Fourteen months later, a poorly
pregnant Woman showed up at my door.

KANA

So, what? You delivered Alina?

BRADLEY

Yes. And once I saw the Baby's
markings, I knew she was the one.

KANA

What about her mother?

BRADLEY

I told her the truth. And for reasons
I still can't comprehend, she chose to
believe me.

KANA

Did you stay out west?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

For a few years, we lived on the edges of civilization. You could say we were a, a family. Then one day, while Alina and I were out fishing, marauders came through.

FLASHBACK

An image of a younger Bradley and a four-year old Alina. SUZY, the mother, lays in the grass, DEAD. The young Alina, pulls a BLUE SCRUNCHY from her hair.

END FLASHBACK

BRADLEY

I lacked the ability to keep her safe.
(Beat)
So, we took refuge on the Intrepid.

KANA

Hiding her under their noses. Smart.

BRADLEY

Until one forgets their *hat*, and a *Drone* identifies them.

Bradley looks away. Cleans his *glasses*.

48 **INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT**

48

Bastian stares into the flames in his fireplace.

Gibbons stands a few yards off, holding a finger to an EARBUD, listens to a transmission.

GIBBONS

Mission consummation, confirmed.

Bastian grins and the flames grow larger.

BASTIAN

Let the family festivities begin.

49 **EXT. THE INTREPID--DECK - NIGHT**

49

A gaggle of folks are gathered on the DECK. Including Nicky, Gregor, Jules, Bradley, Sofia, and Kana.

The morning sun peaks over the horizon.

A FLOTILLA + WOODEN PYRE drifts thirty yards down the River. Drake's body (wrapped in SHEETS) is atop the pyre. Nicky SHOOTS a FLARE GUN at the pyre. The FLARE strikes the WOOD, and the pyre is AFLAME. All watch in sorrowful silence.

Kana-brimming with rage-strides away. Bradley follows.

50 INT. THE INTREPID-BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - MORNING

50

Kana packs his belongings. Bradley silently enters the room.

BRADLEY
Considering a rescue mission?

KANA
That's the plan.

Gregor BURSTS into the room, grabs Kana by the NECK.

GREGOR
I trusted you. Now Drake's flamin' up
for the hereafter and Alina's got
herself pinched.

Bradley places a hand on Gregor's shoulder.

BRADLEY
Vic betrayed us, not Kana.

Gregor loosens his grip.

KANA
He's right. I failed them.

SOFIA (OS)
No one failed anyone.

Sofia stands in the doorway.

SOFIA
I know why they took Alina.

51 EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM, MOON

51

The Zaravan Comet approaches the MOON. The *debris* and *gasses* fade, revealing what hides beneath: A four-hundred yard long, SILKY BLACK, CYLINDRICAL CAPSULE. RUBY RED VEINS, beneath the Capsule's surface pulsate intermittently.

52 INT. THE INTREPID--LAB/SICK BAY - DAY

52

Sofia has set up a 3D HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR. She pulls up a map of the *Solar System* on the projector.

SOFIA
Ok, it begins with the *Zaravan Comet*.

Sofia points to the Comet, on the holo-projected map.

SOFIA
Zaravan entered our Solar System 180
years ago. Then, settled into a
precise elliptical orbit.

Sofia points to the HOLOGRAM, showing how the Comet does a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

figure '8' orbit around the SUN, past EARTH, then around MARS, back past Earth and around the Sun again.

SOFIA

It's rigid trajectory is unusual compared to thousands of other comets in our Solar System. As their parabolic orbits are predictable, but only to a point. Whereas Zaravan's is meticulous. Which is how we know, to the very second, that every six years, the Comet, Sun, and Moon are in perfect alignment.

BRADLEY

When this happens, the Comet amalgamates magnetic energy from the Moon and solar radiation from the Sun. Then sends a signal-of sorts-to Earth.

The hologram switches to a 3D MAP of *New-Hallah*. Sofia focuses on *Dagon Tower* and the *Cathedral*.

SOFIA

The signal's directed at the Dagon Cathedral's Dome. Making it a receiver and amplifier. But, we've only observed the Dome receive the signal. We've yet to see it amplify anything.

GREGOR

So, what's this gotta do with Alina?

Sofia brings up an image of Alina's DNA structure.

SOFIA

As I told you before, her DNA is similar to Kana's. They're like opposite sides of the same coin. But, while his genetic mutation is silent, hers is, well... noisy.

KANA

Noisy?

SOFIA

Think of it like this; all matter vibrates at a subsonic frequency; Wood, metal, water, even molecules.

BRADLEY

Meaning, every gene in our DNA has a distinct auditory signature.

SOFIA

Exactly.

Sofia highlights a different DNA sequence and places it next

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

to Alina's on the screen.

SOFIA

While studying the molecular anomaly in the Aryans' DNA, I discovered that their mutation comes to life when exposed to Alina's genetic acoustics.

BRADLEY

So, they need Alina to activate the Dome, to thereby spread the signal?

SOFIA

Correct. The Dome is inert, just like Kana's DNA. It requires a reciprocal sonance to basically,
(Snaps her fingers)
switch on the amplifier.

KANA

So, she's an alarm that can wake whatever's sleeping in me?

BRADLEY

Along with all of the other Aryans.

SOFIA

Which'll initiate a transformation.

GREGOR

Into what?

An eerie silence fills the room. Then, a LOUD KNOCK at the door. They all flinch. Then, the Sargent enters the lab.

SARGE

(To Gregor)

Sir, a word.

SOFIA

There's something else-

GREGOR

Gimme a few, *Mitten*.

Gregor kisses Sofia on the cheek. Leaves with the Sargent.

KANA

I need a way into the city.

BRADLEY

Can't repeat what we did last time.

Kana thinks. Notices a WATER BOTTLE on Sofia's desk.

KANA

No way through. Or over. What about below?

53 INT. THE INTREPID--ENGINE CONTROL ROOM - DAY

53

Sofia, Bradley and Kana speak with Joe.

JOE
Water systems? That's Jules speci-

JULES (OS)
You old piece 'o crap cock-sucker.

Loud CLANGING and SMASHING and CURSING.

JOE
(Shouts)
Jules! Outta towners.

Jules appears between two large GENERATORS.

JULES
Oh. Hey ho.

JOE
Wanna know 'bout water delivery.

SOFIA
Our friend has an 'idea'.

KANA
Could a delivery pipeline get us into
New-Hallah?

Jules laughs. Realizes she's the only one laughing.

JULES
Oh, you're serious?

Kana stares back, unmoved. Jules thinks.

JULES
New-Hallah's water comes from the
Croton Dam filtration plant. Get me in
their Control Room and pfft... maybe?

KANA
'Maybe' works.

54 INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - DAY

54

An ancient, large CIRCULAR STONE TABLE is fixed to the middle of the GRAND CATHEDRAL. RUNES and SIGILS are carved into the table's surface. Bastian sits at the table. Eyes closed.

Large WOODEN DOORS at the back of the Cathedral OPEN. Three MEN--in silhouette--enter. All the same size and build.

The doors CLOSE. Bastian's eyes open. He smiles, slyly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN
Brothers.

55 INT. THE INTREPID--PASSAGEWAY - DAY

55

Kana follows Nicky and Gregor down a passageway.

GREGOR
 Gonna get yourself killed.

KANA
 More than likely.

Gregor looks at Nicky.

NICKY
 Never been big on suicide missions.
 But, 'spose tryin' somethin' is
 preferable to twiddlin' our thumbs.

They reach a set of doors, and enter-

56 INT. THE INTREPID--CIC - DAY

56

The Intrepid CIC (*Combat Information Center*) is abuzz with various staff. Big T is the man in charge.

GREGOR
 T, rustle us up a *Frogger*.

Big T folds his arms, sizes up Kana.

BIG T
 So, gonna get our girl back, mmm?

KANA
 You gonna talk, or measure?

Big T breaks into a grin. Looks at Gregor.

BIG T
 He's your brother-from-another mother.

Kana and Gregor look mutually insulted. Big T circles Kana.

BIG T
 An F12'll get it done.

A female CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR (mid-30s) nods, moves over to a set of double-doors. Opens them up to reveal a LARGE ARMORY, stacked with modern WEAPONS and GEAR. Kana's taken aback.

Nicky winks at Kana, then saunters into the ARMORY as though it's no big deal.

57 INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

57

A sprawling ROTUNDA, filled with ANTIQES and RELICS. The

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WALLS are covered with floor-to-ceiling TAPESTRIES. There's also a grand FIRE PLACE, with a selection of fearsome WEAPONS above the MANTLE.

Bastian is behind a large DESK. Gibbons stands beside him. An IV LINE is attached to Bastian and TRANFUSES his BLOOD through to a NEEDLE in Gibbons' arm.

The door to the Chambers open. In walks three Paladin GUARDS, and Vic. Their COMMANDER, pushes Alina into the Chambers. Alina's frightened. Her face has been bruised and bloodied.

Bastian yanks the IV Line from his arm, goes to greet Alina. She strikes a defiant pose. This gesture makes Bastian smile, warmly, not mockingly. Then he sees the CUTS and BRUISES.

BASTIAN

Why's her face disfigured?

PALADIN COMMANDER

She's feral, Sir. Required taming.

Bastian looks at the large Commander, and then at Alina.

BASTIAN

With me.

The Commander follows Bastian outside to the Balcony area.

Alina notices the creepy Gibbons, and his snake-like smile. Then she glares at Vic. Who in turn, seems a bit overwhelmed. Alina then hears a NOISE coming from the BALCONY.

She sees Bastian hold the Paladin Commander up with one hand and then THROWS HIM over the balcony railings.

After that, Bastian casually ambles back to Alina. Gestures for Gibbons to leave with Vic.

BASTIAN

I must offer you a heartfelt apology, my dear. Such a rare and precious being should be treated as a... a... Goddess? Mmm. No. A little excessive. How about... a Princess? Hmm?

Alina, looks away. Bastian hunches closer to Alina's face.

BASTIAN

What would you say to an *Ice Cream Sundae*, Princess? I bet you've never seen one let alone tasted one. My goodness. You're in for a treat. Let me tell you, in the grand scheme of the universe, your species is markedly unremarkable... with two exceptions: The Ice Cream Sundae and an unwavering devotion to ignorance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bastian flashes Alina a smile filled with mirth and dread.

58 INT. GREGOR & SOFIA'S QUARTERS - DAY

58

Gregor enters the quarters. Sofia is waiting. She seems sad.

GREGOR

You okay?

SOFIA

When I was studying the Aryan blood samples, I noticed an abnormal level of antibodies in their immune system. Specifically, antigens that are tied to reproduction.

GREGOR

Science is a foreign language, *Mitten*.

SOFIA

Ok. Basically, they're vaccinated against a virus we didn't know existed. It's synthetic and purpose built to nullify breeding.

GREGOR

Synthetic, as in a man-made virus?

SOFIA

More like a biological weapon. It's airborne and soluble. Probably released twenty-years ago.

GREGOR

So, Dagon contrived our ruin?

SOFIA

There is a silver lining; because it's artificial, that means it's based on a formula. So, if I can get my hands on the original recipe, I could reverse engineer it.

GREGOR

But to lay hands, you'd need...

SOFIA

Yeah. But, if not now, when?

GREGOR

What about Kana?

SOFIA

He'll have his hands full. This has to be me and Bradley. It's the only way.

(Takes Gregor's hand)

What's the point in surviving today, if there's no tomorrow, G?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gregor nods to himself, thinking. He embraces Sofia.

GREGOR
S'posin' survival without hope,
otherwise elicits a dark outcome.

Sofia nods. They pull each other closer.

59 **INT. THE INTREPID--WELL DECK - DAY**

59

An internal DOCK where they keep *The Nemo* and a gaggle of small DINGIES. The BOW DOORS open to the RIVER.

Kana's on *The Nemo*, with Jules and Bradley. Kana faces Gregor and Sofia on the deck. He's annoyed.

GREGOR
You need our boat. Our engineer. You
get neither, 'less you accept terms.
That's the matter's end.

KANA
This is some epic cowboy shit.

BRADLEY
Be that as it may, we must try.

Gregor hands Sofia a COMMS DEVICE.

GREGOR
To be used as a last resort.

Sofia nods, and places it in her BACKPACK. Sofia kisses Gregor, and joins the others.

Nicky enters the Well Deck, and slides down a set of METAL STAIRS. He's wearing a pair of COWBOY SIX-SHOOTER PISTOLS.

NICKY
We ready to skin-out?

Nicky jumps on to the boat with aplomb. Kana looks at Nicky's get-up with incredulity. As does Jules.

NICKY
What? Not a fan of the classics?

60 **INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - DAY**

60

Alina sits at a DINING TABLE, by the FIRE PLACE, with Bastian at the opposite end. FOOD SERVERS enter the chamber, with two DISHES. The contents are concealed by SILVER PLATE COVERS.

BASTIAN
A delightful surprise awaits.

Alina hesitantly removes the COVER, to reveal an ICE CREAM SUNDAE. Bastian also has one. He immediately digs in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN
Mm, heavenly.

Alina takes a small scoop. She pokes out the tip of her TONGUE to taste the Ice Cream. She's surprised by the sweetness. Takes a bigger bite. For a second, she smiles.

BASTIAN
Ah... There... a pure moment of joy
deserving of a Princess.

Alina ignores Bastian. Starts STUFFING more into her mouth.

BASTIAN
Indulge until your heart's content.

Alina looks up at the TAPESTRIES that encircle the chamber. One tapestry depicts a battle on top of a VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN.

The Tapestry images seem to ANIMATE. She can see and hear the story of *when the REGENTS defeated the WRAITHS*.

BASTIAN
Hmm... you have celestial senses.

Alina looks at Bastian, confused.

BASTIAN
You can materialize the story.
(Wipes his mouth)
Because the corporeal canvas is woven
from my flesh and blood.

Alina stops eating. Sees all the Tapestries can ANIMATE.

BASTIAN
These mosaics are our history.

All the mosaics have stories. One is BLANK. Alina notices.

BASTIAN
That history will be written by you,
Princess.

Alina draws in a sharp, anguished breath.

61 **EXT. RIVERSIDE DOCK - DAY**

61

Evening approaches as *The Nemo's* docked in front of an old, decaying MANSION. The crew's moving up and past the mansion.

Less than fifty-yards away is the GATE to the Croton Dam. It's lightly guarded. They all crouch around Kana.

KANA
Hang back 'til we give the 'all
clear'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everyone nods. Kana and Nicky stand. They creep forward.

62 **INT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - DAY**

62

Gregor speaks to Joe and Big T.

JOE
With our finite fuel, we can either
flight or fight.

BIG T
Meanin', we can't *run-n-gun*.

Gregor scratches his head. Sighs.

GREGOR
Round-up the Council.

Big T and Joe leave the bridge, as Gregor contemplates.

63 **INT. CROTON DAM--CONTROL ROOM - DAY**

63

Jules, Sofia and Bradley enter the Control Room. It's filled with smoke, blood, bullet casings, and gore. Lots of GORE.

JULES
What... the hell...
(At Kana)
All this your handy work?

NICKY
Hey. Hey. Hey. That guy...
(Points to a PALADIN GUARD)
Yours truly.

'*THAT GUY*' suddenly whimpers, tries to sit up, but Nicky whips out a Pistol and SHOTS '*That Guy*' in the head. Holsters his Pistol. All in the *blink-of-an-eye*. Nicky then looks back at Jules defiantly. She rolls her eyes.

Kana gestures for Jules to join him at a CONTROL PANEL. Jules tip-toes over. When she reaches Kana, she examines the Control Panel. Then notices BRAINS splattered on the BUTTONS.

JULES
(To Kana)
Ever consider meditation?

Kana WIPES the panel down. Jules sits, and takes a THUMB DRIVE device-the size of a DOUBLE-A BATTERY-from her JACKET pocket. Inserts it into reciprocal PORT on the Panel.

JULES
Ok. *Little Pappilion*. Do your thing.
(Types)
Right. Ok. Yep. And, Gotcha!
(At Kana)
Bring your swim trunks?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana looks at Bradley and Sofia. They nod, with trepidation.

64 INT. CROTON DAM--CISTERN - DAY

64

They all stand on a WALKWAY, elevated 50-ft above the FLOOR, overlooking a cavernous CISTERN. Water spirals around and down the Cistern through and into a 6x6-ft PIPELINE.

Kana, Bradley, Sofia each wear WETSUITS, with small AIR TANKS, and BACKPACKS. Jules holds a COMPUTER TABLET.

JULES

Alrighty kids, listen up; I'm gonna use hydraulic telemetry to guide the water to wherever you want out.

BRADLEY

Bio-Lab Research Center.

Jules checks her Tablet.

JULES

There's an outlet underneath a basement utility tunnel.

KANA

Time?

JULES

Ten minutes give-or-take.

SOFIA

If we overshoot or can't stop?

JULES

You'll be dumped in a waste water tank. 100% liquified.

(Off their reaction)

But, like only a ten or twenty percent chance that happens.

Kana nods to Jules. Jules taps on the Tablet screen. The Cistern water STOPS moving.

Kana, Bradley, and Sofia affix their masks and give Jules a 'Thumbs Up'. In turn, Jules restarts the WATER flow, which moves slowly to start. Nicky puts a hand on Kana.

NICKY

(Quietly)

You see Vic, make him feel it.

Kana nods. Then they each dive head first into the water. One behind the other. The water speed increases. GRAVITY naturally sucks them down into the 6x6-ft PIPELINE.

Once they're in the pipeline, the water's flowing at 60 MPH.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICKY

Twenty percent? Not bad. Not great.

JULES

Shit, no! More like, sixty percent.

Nicky purses his lips and whistles plaintively.

65 INT. THE INTREPID--MESS HALL - DAY

65

All-in-all there are 30 people in the room. Usual suspects. Gregor raises his VOICE to address everyone.

GREGOR

I, I look around, and see familiar faces. Some've known me since I was yay high. Others, I known since they were grasshoppers. That makes us kin. And for family, truth is sacred.

The hot, sweaty, concerned faces nod in agreement.

GREGOR

Out there's our reckoning.

(Beat)

We've fought lifetimes to protect our own. But this fight's different; It don't care for what we believe or what we hold dear. It's a fight for survival. Plain 'n simple.

(Beat)

We're outmanned 100 to 1. Outgunned 10,000 to 1. Their weapons are cuttin' edge. Ours are old 'n outta shape.

(Pats Big T's belly)

We're the ant. They're the boot.

Worried grumblings from the crowd.

GREGOR

Few hours from now's the *Alignment*. That's when they'll attack. So I wanna give you and yours a choice; leave or stay. None'll forsake those who go. 'Cos free will is the unbreakable chain that makes us family. Free will, is the right to choose how to survive.

JOE

Pretty crappy choices.

GREGOR

But if you go, go now, while there's time for you to run and us to plan.

(Inhales deeply)

If you stay, you're a *Dragoon*. That means you shoot 'til you're outta *Lead*. You slice 'til your *Blade*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR (CONT'D)
breaks. You punch, kick 'n claw 'til
you fall. That understood?

BIG T
'*Sacrificum est Salivum*'.

Scared, weary, worried, and fierce faces peer back.

MONI
So, besides dying, what other assets
do we possess? And Boy, don't you
quote me that *Art of War* nonsense!

Gregor nods, with a slight grin.

GREGOR
Way I see it, we got three things;
(Holds up one finger)
The element of surprise.
(Holds up a second finger)
The art of smoke 'n mirrors.
(Holds up a third finger)
But above all, they underestimate what
it means to be a family.

More mutterings and murmurs. Moni nods to Gregor.

GREGOR
Ok. You got thirty minutes.

Everyone disperses, except for Gregor. He goes to a window,
watches the sun set behind *New-Hallah*.

66 INT. CROTON DAM--CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

66

INTERCUT:

(Between Control Room and the The Pipeline)

Pipeline

Bradley, Kana, Sofia are rushing along with the water flow.

Control Room

Jules and Nicky monitor their progress via the tablet.

JULES
Deceleration in forty seconds. Look
for Sub-Outlet 6-2-2.

Pipeline

Kana notices they just whizzed past 6-0-1.

Control Room

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES
Shit. Takin' too long to slow down.

NICKY
Did you say 'boiled and liquified'?

SOFIA (OS)
Your radio's still on, Nicky.

Pipeline

They fly past 6-1-2. The water is slowing, but they're still going too fast.

Kana flips to a VERTICAL position-like STARFISH, facing Sofia and Bradley, who in turn look back at him confused.

KANA
I'll grab the hatch. You grab me.

Control Room

JULES
Still movin' too fast.

Nicky stares at the screen, clenched teeth.

Pipeline

Kana sees outlet 6-2-1 go past. They're moving rapidly.

KANA
Get ready.

Kana SNAGS HATCH 6-2-2. Bradley and Sofia each GRAB one of Kana's LEGS. Bradley has a tight grip. Sofia does not.

Control Room

JULES
Guys. You there?

Only STATIC.

JULES
Guys?

More static. Nicky glances at Jules, truly worried.

Pipeline

Sofia's grip on Kana's leg SLIPS. Bradley tries to nab her arm, but then loses his grip too. Both are panicked.

Kana releases a hand from the HATCH and just as Sofia loses her grip, he catches her BACKPACK. Kana then pulls Bradley and Sofia up to grip his belt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana OPENS the HATCH: A CONCRETE MANHOLE with LADDER footholds lead to a MANHOLE COVER 10-ft upwards.

Kana pulls Sofia up into the Manhole.

Control Room

Jules is distressed. All she can hear is static.

NICKY
Probably outta range.

JULES
Or probably fuckin' dead.

NICKY
Kana's a super soldier. And lemme tell ya, Sofia's one tough bitch. She-

SOFIA (OS)
(Breathing heavily)
Your radio's still on, Nicky.

Jules' eyes light up with relief. Nicky smiles.

JULES
Everyone make it?

BRADLEY (OS)
All accounted for. Well done, Jules.

Nicky leans back in his chair, puts his feet up.

NICKY
See. Piece 'a cake, right?

Jules KICKS Nicky's feet off the Panel, agitated.

67 **INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--BASEMENT - NIGHT**

67

The basement area has three EGRESS TUNNELS. Bradley, Sofia, and Kana have removed their DIVING GEAR.

SOFIA
Hudson Gates, in ninety minutes?

All nod. Kana makes to leave. Bradley grabs his arm. Quietly-

BRADLEY
Kana... The difference between a weapon and a warrior, is a conscience. One serves a master while the other serves a higher purpose. Understand?

Kana nods to Bradley. He then takes off down a Tunnel.

SOFIA
You think he'll find her?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bradley doesn't respond. Watches Kana go. His hands tremble.

68 INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

68

Alina examines the tapestries. Bastian follows. She pauses in front of one. Like the others, the images ANIMATE.

INSERT - TAPESTRY ANIMATED GRAPHICS

She sees a depiction of NAZI SCIENTISTS, led by HIMMLER (Gibbons), working in a LAB, experimenting on FOUR MEN.

BASTIAN (VO)

They were Quadruplets. Their superior strength, speed, and intelligence was without equal. Hitler and Himmler saw them as the quintessential Aryan ideal. But they were still only human. Fallible as the next man to a bullet or a knife or disease.

The images transform into a MOUNTAINTOP. The BROTHERS, (faces obscured by HOODS) accompanied by SS SOLDIERS, Hitler and Himmler climb to the peak of the mountain. The top is capped by the same Circular Stone Table seen in the CATHEDRAL.

BASTIAN (VO)

Hitler and his acolytes studied the occult and mysteries of the arcane. Himmler in particular, was obsessed.

Himmler arranges four WEAPONS around the table: Spike-handled TRIDENT, BATTLE-AXE, Curved SABRE, Double-Bladed KATANA.

BASTIAN (VO)

Himmler spent years hunting for set of mystical, all-powerful *weapons*.

The Four Brothers each lift a Weapon, DRAW BLOOD from their PALMS. Then hold their Weapons up over the table.

BASTIAN (VO)

Allegedly the relics could summon an otherworldly force that could make the Brothers invincible.

The tip of the Weapons touch and their BLOOD blends, drips down to the center of the TABLE. Which, then COMES TO LIFE. RUBY VEINS light-up the RUNES and SIGIL carvings.

The mountain RUMBLES and a BLAST of RUBY-RED ENERGY erupts from the middle of the Table. The energy force merges with the Weapons held by the Brothers.

The energy force, then passes through their Weapons and into each of the Brothers. They CONVULSE and SCREAM. Then, it STOPS. All returns to normal. Silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

An SS SOLDIER checks one of the Brothers. He puts a hand on their shoulder. The Brother FLINCHES, grabs the Soldier's hand and CRUSHES it. He then, picks up the Soldier and throws him-with SUPER-HUMAN strength-down the Mountain.

The Brother peels back his HOOD. His eyes shine RED: Bastian.

END INSERT

BASTIAN

And so, in 1944, we were, re-born.

Alina swallows, lowers her eyes.

69 **INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--BASEMENT - NIGHT**

69

Sofia follows Bradley through a maze of corridors. They reach a junction. Bradley points to a CORRIDOR on their left, then holds up a hand for them to stop.

A group of TWENTY PALADIN MARINES double-time down the corridor. A voice comes across one of their RADIOS:

RADIO VOICE

*"Paladin Marine Squadron Four-Ten,
report to Amphibious Fleet Command for
departure in T-minus fifteen."*

Sofia looks at Bradley, fretfully. She whispers-

SOFIA

The Intrepid?

Bradley frowns, nods back. The squad are gone. They move.

70 **INT. THE INTREPID--WELL DECK - NIGHT**

70

Gregor greets two DIVERS disembarking a DINGY.

DIVER 1

Submersible ordinances are set for
remote release.

GREGOR

That's the moat. Now, the battlements.

Diver One nods, exits with the other Diver, as Big T heads in. Gregor looks at Big T, and then his WATCH.

GREGOR

Alright. How bad's the medicine?

BIG T

As of thirty-four minutes ago there
were 784 souls on the 'ol Lady.

(Looks over Gregor's shoulder)
Now there's 786.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gregor follows Big T's eyes. 'The Nemo' glides into the Well Deck dock. Gregor peers questioningly at Nicky.

NICKY
Easy peezy puddin' 'n pie.

Jules glares at Nicky. He smiles deadpan back at her then subtly nods at his brother, who's VISIBLY RELIEVED.

GREGOR
(To Jules)
Your Pops requires assistance.

JULES
His clumsy ass break somethin'?

Gregor doesn't respond. He walks toward the exit.

GREGOR
Deck Two. Five minutes.

Jules mockingly salutes Gregor as he leaves. Nicky smiles.

71 **EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM--EARTH - NIGHT**

71

The Zaravan Comet makes its final approach to Earth.

The debris and gasses are gone. All that remains is the 400-yard long, cobalt black, vessel beneath. The ruby red veins, pulsate increasingly faster.

The Vessel smashes through the (abandoned) INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION as it nears its ultimate destination.

72 **INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

72

Bradley and Sofia creep along a corridor. Bradley pauses, points to a door. Sofia nods. They pull out ELECTROSHOCK GUNS that fire electrically charged projectiles.

They flank the door. Bradley KNOCKS. A MALE SCIENTIST opens the door, Bradley greets him with a genial smile.

MALE SCIENTIST
Who are-

BZZZZZ. The Scientist writhes, after getting hit by 10K volts. He then falls into Bradley's arms; unconscious. Sofia holds the door open. Bradley drags the man through.

73 **INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--GENETICS LAB - NIGHT**

73

Bradley closes the door behind them. Drops the Scientist.

There's four other SCIENTISTS in the room. Three are middle-aged MALES and one older, FEMALE. (*The one who recognized Bradley as 'John' from the Mall.*)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLDER FEMALE SCIENTIST
Activate the alarm!

Bradley hesitates. Sofia does not. She pounces and takes out all three of the Male Scientists with her Electroshock-Gun.

Bradley reaches the Female Scientist. She struggles as he tries to STUN her. She SLIPS, and the PROJECTILE hits the back of her NECK. She falls, unconscious.

Bradley notices Sofia's 'work'. He looks at her, surprised.

SOFIA
Once a Dragoon, right?

Sofia approaches a HOLOGRAPHIC COMPUTER.

BRADLEY
So, what's next?

SOFIA
We grab a Haystack.

Sofia pulls a BADGE from one of the Scientists. and taps the badge on a SCANNER, which ACTIVATES the COMPUTER.

SOFIA
(Types)
And find the Needle.

Bradley glances at the Female Scientist. *Something's off.*

74 INT. THE INTREPID--DECK TWO - NIGHT

74

Jules enters a cramped space, taken-up by a large **RAIL GUN**, BOLTED to a circular PLATFORM. The platform's latched to PISTONS, SHEATHS, and GUIDE RAILS. A RETRACTABLE HATCH above opens to the DECK.

Joe's fretfully assesses the MACHINE with Gregor.

JULES
So, what's what, Pops?

GREGOR
Needle's got him ruffled.

JOE
Ruffled? Hm, let's see: We got a brittle one-hundred pound projectile, that's launched by a hyper-charged electro magnetic pulse, powered by a rickety atomic core. And, we've never tested the son-of-a-bitch before.

GREGOR
Will it work?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Joe grunts back, frustrated.

JULES

Think Pops is sayin' maybe it works.
Or, maybe we vaporize the fuck outta
everything within fifty-miles.

Gregor exhales, folds his arms.

GREGOR

Should their siege succeed, the result
won't rectify our survival.

Joe folds his arms sighs heavily. Jules notices.

JULES

Well, Pops... as Mama used to say; "Put
the work in, and let the rest work
itself out".

Joe flashes a reminiscent smile. Gets back to work with
Jules.

GREGOR

(To Jules)

When you're finished, need ya on the
The Nemo.

Jules grunts an affirmative. She's already focused.

75 **INT. DAGON TOWER - NIGHT**

75

Kana makes his way through a tangle of corridors. He stops
and hides in the shadows, when he sees a group of GUARDS
forty-feet away.

Kana notices he is next to a DOOR. He slowly opens it, and
backs in, out of sight. When he turns around, he realizes
he's in an ARMORY room. More importantly, there a DOZEN
Paladins preparing load-outs.

The Paladins notice Kana. For a moment, everyone is silent.
Kana looks back at the door, and realizes he's trapped.

One of the Paladins raises a GUN. Kana glances to his right,
and sees an electrical junction BOX in the middle of the
ceiling. He flashes out a BLADE and THROWS it at the box. The
room goes pitch black.

PALADIN

Switch to night vision.

The Paladins tap their helmets. They can now see each other
in an ghostly green hue. But no Kana.

One of the Paladins keeps searching. He looks upward, sees
Kana squatting in the top corner of the ceiling. Kana smiles.
Jumps down on top of the Paladin. All goes dark, as gun fire

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

barks loudly, attempting to hit an elusive target.

76 **INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT**

76

Alina continues to explore the tapestries, Bastian follows.

INSERT TAPESTRY IMAGE

A World War II bunker. Hitler, his wife and Generals are congregated together. The Four Brothers are also there.

BASTIAN (VO)

Adolf and his Aryan ideals were simply
a means to an end. So, when he
declared a desire to surrender...

The Four Brothers KILL EVERYONE in the bunker.

BASTIAN (VO)

All knowledge of our existence needed
to be erased.

The only Officer that remains is Himmler (Gibbons).

BASTIAN (VO)

The true architect of our liberation
became our proxy.

INSERT NEW ANIMATED TAPESTRY IMAGE

Passage of time from the 1950s through to the late 2020s.

BASTIAN (VO)

We patiently studied man's craven
appetite for self-destruction.

Wars. Bombs. Disease. Greed. Famine. Haves. Have nots.

BASTIAN (VO)

Do you know what's the opposite of
reason? Gullibility.

Homelessness. Racism. Starvation. Murder. Accidents.

BASTIAN (VO)

Mankind's need to rationalize the
irrational made them prone to populism
and radicalization.

Protests. Riots. Floods. Forest fires. Ice Caps melting.

BASTIAN (VO)

So, with each tragedy, outrage, and
disaster, we'd fan the flames of pain
into an inferno of desperation.

The flags of Dagon rise like little DAISIES on World Map.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN (VO)
 We facilitated their fall. So that
 when hope did arise from the ashes,
 they'd willingly acquiesce.

Babies born in a LAB. Grow into adults; ARYANS.

BASTIAN (VO)
 Finally we could step out of the
 shadows, as Earth was now ours. Lest
 one last piece of the puzzle.

END INSERTS

They've stopped in front of the *Blank Tapestry*. However, a new IMAGE has appeared: The Zaravan Comet. Then, below the Comet, another image materializes: Dagon Cathedral.

Bastian takes a knee, in front of Alina. He's genial, gentle.

BASTIAN
 The *Alignment* will bring back my kind.
 Stripped of form and function, they'll
 be made whole again. And because of
 man's enduring gullibility, a new age
 of darkness will reign supreme.

Bastian stands, sweetly pats Alina on the head.

THE DOOR to the chamber OPENS. Gibbons enters, he seems flustered. Bastian goes to him.

Alina goes to the FIRST Tapestry: *When the Regents defeated the Wraiths*. She sees the ETHEREAL GATEWAY open in the sky. Then, how the Three Regents ascended while One remained and transformed into BEAM OF LIGHT.

She sees the LIGHT of the One, SPLIT into TWO SPIRITS, that finds TWO HUMAN HOSTS. Under the Hosts, she notices her, and Kana's SIGILS. Along with the GLYPHS from the Inuit CAVE.

The GLYPHS start to move and morph. Alina watches closely, and then suddenly, she SMILES. She can read the Glyphs.

BASTIAN (OS)
 Princess?

Alina RECOILS. Bastian notices a look on her face. He glances at the Tapestry. He focuses on the SIGILS.

BASTIAN
 Do you understand what those mean?

Alina shrugs and shakes her head. Bastian stares at her, and for a microsecond, he's worried. He quickly shakes it off.

GIBBONS (OS)
 My lord?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN

Yes. Yes, let's greet our guest.

Bastian feigns a bow, to Alina. Leaves with Gibbons.

Alina smiles. But the smile slips away because the ability to understand comes with the knowledge of what must be done.

77 **INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--GENETICS LAB - NIGHT**

77

Sofia holds Jules' THUMB DRIVE. Inserts it into a PORT on a HOLOGRAPHIC COMPUTER.

SOFIA

Jules says her little *Papillion* toy can hack into anything... maybe.

FILES appear. Sofia smiles, relieved. Bradley points to a specific FILE. 'PROJECT PERSES'

SOFIA

Perses? The Greek God of Destruction?

BRADLEY

Gibbons enjoys his mythology.

They browse through the files of *PROJECT PERSES*. Sofia pauses at a FILE name: 'YERSINIA'

SOFIA

Yersinia? Yersinia...

BRADLEY

Hmm... *Pestis?*

SOFIA/BRADLEY

The Black Plague.

Sofia excitedly opens the File.

78 **INT. THE INTREPID - MONTAGE**

78

MONTAGE: The crew prepare for the battle to come.

ENGINE ROOM - Joe + OTHERS build a 10x10-ft MESH CAGE.

MESS HALL - Moni + OTHERS convert it into a TRIAGE UNIT.

DECK - Drake's old Crew PAINT hundreds of SAND BAGS, Black.

FISHING TRAWLER - Nicky and another soldier place ROMAN CANDLE Mortars on the ROOF. Plus, a remote-controlled RIFLE.

WELL DECK - Jules preps an EXPLOSIVE DEVICE on *The Nemo*.

CIC/ARMORY - Big T and the Sarge arm SOLDIERS and CIVVIES with Guns, Swords, Knives. Anything that can KILL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR'S ROOM - Gregor's at a DESK, reads ART OF WAR. A KNOCK at the door, Nicky bursts in. Gregor HIDES the book.

NICKY

They released the Kraken.

79 **INT. ENTRANCEWAY OF DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT**

79

Two PALADINS guard the entrance into *Dagon Cathedral*. A long, CANDLE-LIT, hallway leads to the entrance. A RADIO crackles:

PALADIN SOLDIER (OS)

Intruders on L4. We can't-

GUN SHOTS and SCREAMS come across the Radio. Both Guards look at one another, concerned. Further down the hallway, CANDLES are abruptly SNUFFED OUT. The Guards hold up their GUNS.

'SWISH' of OBJECTS moving through the Darkness. The Guards look down, see *Mercario Blades* in their CHESTS.

Kana steps out of the darkness, SPLATTERED in BLOOD.

80 **INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT**

80

Kana BREACHES the entrance of the Cathedral. VIC is alone, on the other side. Kana looks around the vast space, to see if anyone else is there. He then sets his sights on Vic. Who in turn, seems to know his timecard's about to get punched.

KANA

Where is she?

VIC

They promised, if I delivered the girl, they'd let us be.

(Swallows)

I did it to save my people.

KANA

My mother once told me: "*To err is human. To forgive is divine.*"

(Fists clench)

Unfortunately for you, I'm neither.

Vic draws his MACHETE. Grits his teeth. Kana throws his Dagger, Viv blocks it... ricochets into the WALL.

Vic swings at Kana's, but misses. Kana, DISLOCATES Vic's KNEE. Vic swings again, Kana catches his WRIST, SNAPS Vic's ELBOW. Catches the machete. STABS it through Vic's neck. Vic gurgles, his own blood. Drops to his knees.

KANA

Reap the whirlwind, Vic.

(Kicks Vic down)

REAP IT!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LAUGHING. CHUCKLING. Bastian surfaces from the shadows, with a smile. He assesses the damage, impressed. Gibbons lurks creepily behind Bastian.

BASTIAN
My, what a fascinating specimen.

KANA
Give me the girl.

BASTIAN
Odd though. We neutralized your kind's access to bio-tech, years ago. Hmm.

Bastian circles Kana, unfazed.

KANA
Hand her over or die.

BASTIAN
A true *Lion* amongst men. Yet, to my kind, you're a merely a *Mouse*.
(Peeping over Kana's shoulder)
Mouse... meet the Pride.

Bastian's BROTHERS are behind Kana (MOLOCH, JEON and TUREL).

Kana PUNCHES Moloch in the face. He doesn't flinch. Moloch HEADBUTTS Kana, knocking him senseless to the floor.

GIBBONS
Shall I have it disposed, my lord?

BASTIAN
Hmm. He means something to her.
(Beat)
Keep him close, in case she requires encouragement. Once we're done, I'd like to see what's under the hood.

Gibbons sneers, like a sadistic *Cheshire Cat*.

BASTIAN
Take him to the girl.

As the Paladin Guards drag Kana, Bastian notices Kana's *Dagger* in the wall. Takes it out. Examines it closely.

BASTIAN
Wait.

The Paladins STOP. Bastian shows the *Dagger* to Kana.

BASTIAN
Where'd you find this?

KANA
Somewhere over the rainbow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana smiles, revealing bloody teeth. He spits the blood at Bastian's feet. Bastian chuckles. Nods for the guards to take him away. Gives the *Dagger* to Gibbons.

81 INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--GENETICS LAB - NIGHT

81

Sofia and Bradley's search has become frustrating.

SOFIA

There's nothing about a virus formula.

BRADLEY

We'll keep looking. Must be here.

MALE SCIENTIST (OS)

It's, it's gone.

Sofia jolts up, GRABS the GROGGY man by his COLLAR.

SOFIA

The formula. Where is it?

MALE SCIENTIST

Gib... Gibbons... deleted the records.

The Male Scientist passes out. Sofia SLAPS the scientist.

SOFIA

No. No. No. He's lying. He's lying.

Bradley pulls Sofia off the ambulatory Scientist.

BRADLEY

His genetic design prohibits deceit.

SOFIA

What do we do?

Bradley glances at the unconscious Female Scientist.

BRADLEY

Maybe she can help. She was around back when... the beginning.

Bradley goes to the Female Scientist. However, she's dead. Bradley examines her: Sees the Electro-projectile STRUCK the area where her Stigma would have been contained.

BRADLEY

(To himself)

The electric shock disabled her Stigma. The Stigma controls the brain. The brain operates the body. If the Stigma's shut down, the body follows.

SOFIA

Yes, and?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

We need to terminate the signal.

SOFIA

Signal? What about the formula? I-

LOUD CHIMES disrupt them. They're coming from everywhere.

BRADLEY

The *Alignment's* begun.

82 INT. PALADIN FLAG SHIP - NIGHT

82

The BRIDGE's filled with Paladin Navy SAILORS and MARINES. The COMMANDER (Female, mid-50s) looks out of the window at *The Intrepid*. Her arms folded behind her back.

A Paladin Marine CAPTAIN (Male, mid-30s), enters the Bridge and stands next to the Commander.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

You understand Rules of Engagement?

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

Terminate resistors. Capture the rest for re-processing, Sir.

The Commander nods.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

But first, we offer terms.

The Commander nods to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER. The Ship broadcasts loudly enough for those on *The Intrepid* to hear.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

Inhabitants of the *Unterman* vessel; Surrender now and earn the honor of Aryan servitude. Comply. Or perish.

Suddenly- STROBE LIGHTS FLASH from *The Intrepid*. And then very LOUD MUSIC blares from their SPEAKERS:

'SPIRIT IN THE SKY', by NORMAN GREENBAUM.

SONG

*When I die and they lay me to rest /
Gonna go to the place that's the best
/ When I lay me down to die / Goin' up
to the spirit in the sky.*

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

Sir?

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

They've rejected our terms.

(At Captain)

Make them regret their decision.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Captain nods, exits the Bridge. The music continues.

83 **EXT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - NIGHT**

83

Big T, Nicky, Gregor, on the Bridge.

BIG T
Think they got the message?

Through BINCOLUARS, Nicky sees 12 Paladin BOARDING CRAFTS.

NICKY
Loud 'n clear.

Nicky hands the binoculars to Gregor, who also takes a look.

GREGOR
Boarding party.

BIG T
Round up the sheep.

NICKY
And take out the shepherds.

GREGOR
As predicted.

Gregor eyes the Boarding Crafts. Nicks speaks to him quietly.

NICKY
You got us through worse, G.

Gregor nods, even though *they both know that's not true*.

84 **INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT**

84

Guards CHAIN Kana to a PILLAR next to the fireplace. Gibbons places Kana's *Gilded Dagger* under the Golden SHORT-SWORD above the MANTLE. Kana notices the similarities.

KANE
(Under his breath)
Excalibur.

Gibbons peeks around the Chamber.

GIBBONS
I've bought you a gift, *mein kleiner*.

Gibbons snickers, mockingly, then exits the Chamber.

Kana sees movement behind one of the TAPTESTRIES. He reaches into his pocket.

KANA
Hey. You forget something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alina peeks from behind a Tapestry, and sees Kana. She runs to him. Smothers him with a HUG. Kana pulls Alina's *Blue Scrunchy* from his pocket. Hands it to her. They smile.

Alina then sees Kana is wounded.

KANA
I got 'em just where I want 'em.
(Grimaces)
We'll be okay. I'll find a-

Alina holds a finger to Kana's lips. She gets up, rushes to Bastian's desk. Returns with PEN and PAPER.

Alina writes her and Kana's NAMES on the paper. Kana reads. Alina points to her name, then to herself, and gives a THUMBS UP. Points to Kana's name, then to him. CROSSES OUT his name.

KANA
Kana. Kana's what? Not my name?

Alina nods, points to a TAPESTRY. It shows their SIGILS and GLYPHS from the cave. She draws a GLYPH under Kana's SIGIL.

KANA
That's my 'real' name?

Alina writes: "*I can read it.*"

KANA
Ok. So, tell me.

Alina, more anguished, writes again: "*I can speak it.*"

Kana looks at the two FIGURES on the Tapestry. The One with Alina's Sigil is ROARING. The One with Kana's Sigil, has A LIGHT bursting from his chest... like a BOMB.

KANA
*So, if you say my real name...
(To himself, quietly)
A higher purpose.*

A tear runs down one of Alina's cheek.

85 **EXT. HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT**

85

Twelve Dagon BOARDING CRAFTS descend on *The Intrepid*. Each craft is 100-ft long, armed, and carry Fifty PALADINS.

Meanwhile, *The Intrepid's* MUSIC and STROBE LIGHTS continue.

86 **INT. LEAD PALADIN BOARDING CRAFT - NIGHT**

86

The Paladin Marine Captain in the middle of the Bridge.

A middle-aged MALE PALADIN MARINE LIEUTENANT is piloting. And a 20-something FEMALE PALADIN MARINE SERGEANT is monitoring

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

communications and activity coming from the *Intrepid*.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
(Into a comms device)
Valkyrie Groups A, B, and C in
position, Commander.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER (OS)
(Over Radio)
Targeted EMP Strike in twenty seconds.

87 **EXT. PALADIN FLAGSHIP DECK - NIGHT**

87

A large EMP CANNON warms up, preparing to fire.

88 **INT. THE INTREPID - NIGHT**

88

INTERCUT:

(Between the Bridge, Engine Room, and Deck).

Bridge

They can see the Paladin Flagship's EMP CANNON prepping.

GREGOR
(In to radio)
EMP, t-minus ten.

Engine Room

Joe and Jules are inside a METAL MESH CAGE, surrounded by a PANEL of computers and technical equipment.

Jules' thumb hovers over a RED BUTTON on the panel. DUCT TAPE above the button reads: 'DO NOT FUCKING TOUCH. EVER.'

JOE
(In to radio)
Ready.

The Deck

SOLDIERS, (led by the Sargent and Corporal), huddle with CIVVIES, and Drake's old crew. They have taken positions behind 4-ft the black SAND BAGS, from Aft to Stern.

Six narrow 30-ft WATCHTOWERS, with PORTICOS atop, capped by a BLACK CANOPY, are scattered across the deck. Inside each PORTICO is a SNIPER (SENTINELS).

SARGE
(In to radio)
Everyone, switch to analog.

All, TURN OFF their ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

Bridge

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The EMP CANNON BLASTS a focused laser-like BEAM at *The Intrepid*. And, just as it is about to hit the ship-

GREGOR
(In to radio)

Now.

Engine Room

Jules presses her thumb down on the RED BUTTON.

Exterior of The Intrepid

A second before the EMP strikes, *The Intrepid* GOES DARK.

Bridge

Nicky goes to a WALL at the back of the Bridge. There's an old IRON SPEAKING TUBE. He cups his mouth over the tube.

NICKY
We alive?

Engine Room

There's a corresponding SPEAKING TUBE the Metal Cage was built around. The equipment's running. Jules nods.

JOE
And kicking.

NICKY (OS)
Damn. That *Faraway Cage* worked?

JULES
I swear I'm gonna choke his ass.

NICKY (OS)
You're a beautiful genius, Julesey.

Jules smiles, despite herself.

Bridge

Nicky gives Gregor the *thumbs up*. Gregor looks out across the river. *The Boarding Crafts* are heading toward them.

GREGOR
Time for some smoke 'n mirrors, Kid.

END INTERCUT

89 INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER ROOF - NIGHT

89

A glass SKY BRIDGE leads to the DAGON COMMS TOWER, (a PYRAMID ENCLOSURE wrapped in shiny grey hexagonal tiles and capped by a glass CAPSTONE -- as seen by Kana, on his first visit)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELEVATOR DOORS open at one end of the Bridge. Bradley and Sofia walk out, armed with GUNS. Two PALADIN GUARDS are slouched down on the elevator floor, unconscious.

The doors shut. Bradley walks purposefully across the Bridge. They reach the door for the *Enclosure*. Opens it with a Badge.

90 INT. DAGON COMMS TOWER ROOF ENCLOSURE - NIGHT

90

The Enclosure is full of SERVERS. Bradley paces down a pathway, searching. Sofia follows, but is irritable.

SOFIA

What are we doing here?

BRADLEY

The mission's changed.

SOFIA

Says who?

Bradley pauses, faces Sofia. Looks at her sympathetically.

BRADLEY

Even if the odds of finding a cure are infinitesimal, hope remains. But only if we remain. And the odds of our survival are decreasing by the second.

Sofia exhales. As she's about to say something-

BRADLEY

That's the one.

Bradley stops in front of a white SERVER. He swipes his BADGE and a COMPUTER TERMINAL emerges.

BRADLEY

Jules' 'butterfly key'?

Sofia reluctantly hands Bradley "*Little Papillion*". He inserts it into a PORT. A holographic IMAGE of Earth's ORBIT emerges along with a map of various SATELLITES.

SOFIA

Is that Dagon's Satellite Network?

Bradley nods. He adjusts the focus of the screen to widen the aperture. They get a very close look at the incoming '*Comet*'.

SOFIA

Zaravan.

(Eyes widen in shock)

It's a... a... *spaceship*?

BRADLEY

Apparently so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bradley takes a deep breath.

91 INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

91

Alina has her back turned to Kana. She's hunched over.

KANA

Alina?

Alina doesn't move.

KANA

Alina. Hey. Come on, look at me.

Alina faces Kana. Tears in her eyes. Scared.

KANA

You know, most my life I've had this fire. A need to know what I am. Know why my mother died to protect me. Why my tribe sent me away. What made me so, so 'special'?

(Smiles to himself)

Then you threw a rock at me. And everythin' changed. Felt like, like I reached the end of a journey. Yet, I couldn't savvy the destination. But, I get it. Me 'n you. Right here, and now. Maybe, we are the destination.

Alina swallows back tears. Writes something down.

"Meeca Newka"

KANA

Little sister. That's right.

(Squeezes Alina's hand)

Who knows why the universe picked us? None of it makes sense. But I believe, there's a plan. A... a higher purpose. And we have a part to play. But, what I believe counts for a whole big bucket of nothin', 'less we're in this together, *Mika Nukka*.

Alina tries to smile. Wipes away her tears. Then-

The, DOORS OPEN. It's Gibbons, Moloch, Jegon and Turel.

92 INT. LEAD PALADIN BOARDING CRAFT - NIGHT

92

The Paladin Marine Sargent looks at the Marine Captain.

MARINE SARGENT

Their power's disabled, Sir.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

Groups A, B and C, commence attack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, a concerto of ROMAN CANDLES explode in the SKY near the BOARDING CRAFTS. They're coming from A FERRY and a FISHING TRAWLER to the left and right of *The Intrepid*.

The Boarding Crafts are also being struck with BUCKSHOT, small-caliber BULLETS, and CROSS-BOW BOLTS.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER (OS)
Captain, report?

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
We're taking small-arms fire from scrap ships flanking the target.
(Smiles at the *Roman Candles*)
Plus ineffective munitions.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER (OS)
Split the convoy. And remove their toys before they hurt themselves.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
Yes, Sir.

The Captain nods to the Sargent.

PALADIN MARINE SARGENT
(In to Comms unit)
Groups B and C engage secondary and tertiary hostiles.

The Paladin Marine Captain watches two sets of four *Boarding Crafts* break off and head toward the *Ferry* and *Trawler*.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
Untermen. Unevolved monkeys.

93 INT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - NIGHT

93

Gregor watches the three *Attack Groups* split.

GREGOR
Hook and line.

Gregor gives Nicky a nod. Nicky leans over the voice-pipe.

94 INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

94

Alina and Kana are ushered into the Cathedral.

The Four Brothers take their places around the *Stone Table*.

They hold up their respective weapons: Moloch's *Battle Axe*, Jeqon's *Spike-handled Trident*, Bastian's CURVED SABRE, and Turel's *Double-bladed Katana Spear*.

Kana and Alina are momentarily alone. Kana notices Alina fidgeting with the *beaded bracelet* Kana's Mother gave her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

(Whispering)

"To her this wasn't even a choice. For she believed there's no greater honor than being called to safeguard the light of a new life."

Alina sniffs. Kana looks at her beseechingly. Suddenly, Gibbons looms over them. The moment is gone.

GIBBONS

It's time, *mein kleiner*.

Gibbons drags a scared Alina away. Kana feels helpless.

95 **EXT. THE INTREPID--DECK - NIGHT**

95

A few Soldiers are using old SHOT GUNS to take POT-SHOTS at the *Boarding Crafts*.

Hiding behind the Sand Bags; An arsenal of AUTOMATIC WEAPONS and RIFLES. Sarge holds up a FOGHORN. Emits two loud SALVOS.

At the Aft and Stern are two PHALANX C.I.W.S mounted to metal BASES, hidden under TARPS. Soldiers remove the tarps.

(A PHALANX Close-In-Weapon-System is a Naval machine gun. Armed with 20MM GATLING GUNS, that fires 3K rounds per min, and use automated tracking system to target and shoot).

96 **INT. THE INTREPID--ENGINE CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT**

96

Jules uses a COMPUTER to control and fire harmless RIFLES on the *Ferry* and *Trawler*, at the *Boarding Crafts*. She is also aiming and detonating Roman Candles at the *Crafts*.

On a different MONITOR is a RADAR IMAGE. It shows the position of *The Intrepid*, *Ferry*, and *Trawler* in relation to the oncoming Paladin Boarding Crafts.

Between the approaching Paladins and others vessels are 32 flashing TRIANGLE BLUE LIGHTS, perfectly spaced apart to form a CRESCENT SHAPE, ensnaring the *Boarding Crafts*.

Joe listens to Nicky on the Voice-Pipes.

JOE

They took the bait.

The *Crafts* are merely yards from the Triangle Lights.

JULES

(Whisper, sings)

Goin' on up to the spirit in the sky.

Jules presses a SWITCH next to the Radar Screen.

97 **EXT. HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT** 97

At the BOTTOM of the *Hudson River*, are SUBMERSIBLE SEA MINES, tethered to KETTLE BELLS by a ROBOTIC PINCHER.

A RED LED LIGHT on the Pincher turns to GREEN and the pinchers OPEN, releasing the Sea Mines.

98 **INT. LEAD PALADIN BOARDING CRAFT - NIGHT** 98

The Marine Sargent stares at her RADAR SCREEN, perplexed.

PALADIN MARINE SARGENT
Multiple objects floating up from the riverbed, Sir.

The Paladin Marine Captain goes to the radar screen. Sees a crescent of SUBMERSIBLES rising through the water.

The Captain looks alarmingly out at the water: barely 30-ft away GREEN LED LIGHTS rise toward the surface. He panics.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
TAKE EVASIVE-

99 **INT. PALADIN FLAG SHIP - NIGHT** 99

The COMMANDER watches her Boarding Crafts, with a smirk. But that smirk swiftly slips away, when she sees each and every one of her Crafts EXPLODE IN A BALL OF MOLTEN FIRE.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER
What just happened? Report? Report!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

100 **INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT** 100

Two of the Brothers-Moloch & Jegon-take Alina from Gibbons and lay her out on the Stone Table. Her FEET and HANDS are bound to the Table with LEATHER RESTRAINTS.

All Four Brothers draw DAGGERS as the Dome's ROOF RETRACTS.

101 **EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM, EARTH** 101

The Zaravan Comet (Vessel) has reached it's destination. The 400-yard long Vessel hovers menacingly in the THERMOSPHERE.

The dark Ruby colored Veins are fully aglow. The Vessel vibrates, burning brighter. Then, a powerful round BEAM of RUBY RED light RUPTURES from the Vessel down toward Earth.

Then, smaller RED BEAMS of LIGHT thrust outward from the Vessel across the thermosphere, permeating a set of SATELITES, to form a gossamer mesh, blanketing the Earth.

Each Satellite has a name STENCILED on it: DAGON, INC.

102 INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

102

The Brothers look up at the sky. As does a terrified Alina.

BASTIAN
Wraiths of the Dark. Wake from your
 bitter slumber. Rise again.

Alina thrashes against her restraints. The Brothers use their Daggers to make small incisions on Alina's FEET and HANDS.

Not the bloody sacrifice Alina was expecting.

Her BLOOD seeps through the Table's creviced ENGRAVINGS. Then, a RED BEAM OF LIGHT comes down from the sky, and ILLUMINATES the STONE TABLE.

The Dome's roof vibrates, as the Red Light suffuses the bronze outer shell, until it becomes a RED RIPPLING BUBBLE.

103 EXT. NEW-HALLAH--MALL PARKWAY - NIGHT

103

The CITIZENS of New-Hallah are paused in place. They all face the Cathedral, expectantly. Their eyes hypnotically focused on the Dome.

104 INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

104

The Brothers sheath their Daggers. Hold up their respective Weapons above Alina. Bastian looks at Alina with a smile.

BASTIAN
 Now, '*Le Pièce De Résistance*'. And for that, I need you to scream, Princess.

Alina refuses to comply. She glances at Kana. Bastian frowns.

BASTIAN
 (To Gibbons)
 A little encouragement, if you please?

GIBBONS
 Yes, my Lord.

Gibbons, looks at Kana. Pulls out a LUGER, and SHOOTS Kana in the SHOULDER. Alina SCREAMS. Kana holds his head in AGONY from the sound of Alina's shrieks.

Then, the Bubble over the Dome splinters into THOUSANDS of thin RED VEINY-LIGHTS, and branch across the City.

105 EXT. NEW-HALLAH--MALL PARKWAY - NIGHT

105

The Red Veiny-Lights penetrate New-Hallah Citizens via the back of their heads. In turn, their STIGMAS glow RED under their skin. Which then spreads through their bodies.

Their bodies start to TRANSFORM. Their skin turns into a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

snake-like BLACK SCALES. Dark WINGS burst forth from their backs. They BAY in unison.

They have become WRAITHS.

106 INT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - NIGHT

106

Crew on the Bridge CHEER as they watch the *Paladin Boarding Crafts* BURN. Big T walks in, *fist-bumps* Nicky.

BIG T

Now they know who their up against.

Gregor stares intensely at the *Paladin Flagship*.

GREGOR

All we did is poke the Bear. Now the Bear's gonna poke back.

(To Big T)

Ok. Thread the *Needle*, T.

BIG T

Gonna need the Lights back on.

Big T looks at Nicky and nods.

NICKY

(In to the Voice Tube)

Power her up, Darlin'.

(To himself, embarrassed)

Aww, shit!

JULES (OS)

(Via the Voice Tube)

Did you just call me '*Darling*'? You must be one dumbass cowpoke, if-

Nicky's no longer listening. He's distracted, as faint wisps of '*unnatural*' Ruby Red Light burnish the Bridge.

Nicky follows Big T to a window. Along with the the rest of the crew, they're mesmerized by a large RED VEINY CLOUD OF LIGHT that has blanketed NEW-HALLAH.

The Red Veiny Lights flash and spiral out in all directions. Including the *Paladin Flagship*, which suddenly goes DARK at the exact same time *The Intrepid's* POWER comes to life.

BIG T

What. The-

NICKY

Fuck?

107 INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

107

Kana watches Paladins transform into monstrous Wraiths. The Four Brothers also undergo a transformation of sorts; Their

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

complexion darkens, like COAL. Their FLESH hardens like LEATHER. Their EYES glow RED with YELLOW PUPILS.

Only Alina, Kana, and Gibbons haven't transformed. Alina looks at Kana for help. He nods to her, pleading.

KANA

Mika Nukka.
 (Firm)
 It's time.
 (Beseeching)
 Summon him.

Gibbons notices their chatter. Perplexed. Approaches Kana.

Alina exhales. Swallows. Belches out small GUTTURAL SOUNDS.

ALINA

(Faint)
 I... I... sum... I summon...
 (Whispers)
 I summon you: *Princeps autem Lux.*
 (With clarity)
 I summon you: *Kidemónas des Galaxías.*
 (Loudly)
 I summon you: *Regent of the Sun.*
 (Righteous fury)
 Urael... Urael, I SUMMON YOU!

Kana holds his head, ROARS in extreme torment.

Alina passes out. Bastian looks at Alina, anxiously.

BASTIAN

What have you done?

Gibbons SHOOTS Kana in the chest. Kana lurches over. His head rests against the MARBLE FLOOR. Blood spools around him.

Gibbons approaches Kana. Notices his BIRTHMARK/SIGIL on his BACK. Gibbons eyes widen. The SIGIL GLOWS a BLUE OPAL LIGHT. It spreads through Kana's body. Bastian notices as well.

BASTIAN

No. No, no, no. Impossible.

Gibbons FUMBLES, trying to load another CLIP into his GUN.

Kana's head moves an inch. Then, he fully RISES. His eyes, shine OPAL BLUE. BULLETS, SPIT out of his chest.

'Kana/Urael', snaps his restrains like they're a toothpick. (*Kana will be referred to as URAEL, hence*).

Gibbons' gun trembles in his hand. Urael seizes the gun, crushes it. He then clutches Gibbons' throat, holds him in the air glances at the Four Brothers. SNAPS Gibbons neck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

URAEEL
 (A baritone, resonant voice)
Princes of the Dark. Your presence on
 Earth is a perversion.

One of the *Paladin Guards* (now a *Wraith*). Attacks Urael from behind with his SPEAR. Without looking, Urael ducks the lunge, grabs the Guard by his CAPE, pulls the Guard back and PUNCHES A HOLE through his CHEST.

Urael picks up the Guard's SPEAR. He points it at Jegon.

URAEEL
 You shall be purged from this world.

Jegon smiles, arrogantly. Holds up his TRIDENT.

108 **EXT. THE INTREPID--DECK - NIGHT**

108

The RED VEINY SPHERE over New-Hallah has spread and now enshrouds the *Paladin Flagship*.

Sarge uses her NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES and sees hundreds of dark silhouettes launch from the *Paladin Flagship*, into the sky.

INTERCUT:

(Between the Deck & Watchtowers)

Deck

SARGE
 (In to her radio)
 Sentinel One. Those Drones?

Watchtowers

A SNIPER and SPOTTER use their SCOPES to get a CLOSER look.

SENTINEL 1
 Do Drones have flappy wings?

Deck

Gregor comes over the radio.

GREGOR (OS)
 Are those, birds?

Sarge grabs a RIFLE, uses the SCOPE. The flying silhouettes heading toward them are becoming clearer.

SARGE
 Birds don't have fangs.

GREGOR (OS)
 Come again? Did you say '*Fangs*'?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Watchtower

Through his SCOPE the SPOTTER sees hundreds of WRAITHS.

SPOTTER
Holy shit. What are they?

The Wraiths UNSHEATH CRIMSON RED SPEARS directly from their SPINES. The SPOTTER starts to speak, but stops mid-sentence, as one of the Wraith Spears is LANCED through his head.

SENTINEL 1
(In to radio)
Airborne hostiles are engaging.

Deck

SARGE
Dragoons! Weapons free.

The demonic Wraiths descend on the deck, *like a plague of locusts sent straight from hell.* Everyone opens fire.

The Wraiths don't go down easily because of their thick skin.

Watchtower

The Sniper takes out three Wraiths with HEADSHOTS.

SENTINEL 1
(Over his radio)
Focus fire at their heads.

Deck

The Soldiers adjust their defense, aim for headshots. As another 10,000 Wraiths head their way from New-Hallah.

END INTERCUT

109 **INT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - NIGHT**

109

Big T's looking at a Radar Screen. Sees the flock of Wraiths.

INTERCUT:

(Between the Bridge, CIC, and Deck.)

BIG T
(In to his radio)
CIC, incoming biological asymmetrical targets. Deploy Phallanx One and Two. Optimize for headshots.

CIC

The Female CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR, and five OTHERS man the CIC.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR
Phallanx One and Two, pre-set auto-
targeting for cranial deconstruction.

BIG T (OS)
Fire at will.

The Weapons Operator nods to the others in the CIC.

Deck

A new SWARM of Wraiths descend on The Intrepid.

The Phalanxes SPRING to life. Their GATLING GUNS *pitch* and *swivel*, as they FIRE, auto-adjusting to hit each Wraith. But, even with the Phallanx guns, there's too many.

Wraiths are landing on the Deck and ripping people apart.

Bridge

Gregor watches--in abject horror--the SLAUGHTER.

GREGOR
(In to his Radio)
Jules, get *The Nemo* on-line.

Nothing comes back over the radio. Only GUNFIRE, SCREAMS. Nicky twitchily-taps his GUN handles. Gregor notices.

GREGOR
Time to skin those smoke wagons, Kid.

Nicky nods, serious. Grabs his WINCHESTER SHOTGUN. Swings it over his shoulder on to his back, quickly exits the Bridge.

CIC

CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR
(Over the radio)
Chief, we're down to 15% capacity.

Gregor and Big T look at each other, worried.

END INTERCUT

110 **INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT**

110

Jeqon heaves his Trident at Urael, but misses. His Trident SKEWERS the wall. The handle's sharp tip, juts outward.

Urael throws his Spear, at an oncoming Jeqon. It hits Jeqon squarely through the CHEST, pinning him to a PILLAR. Jeqon looks down at the Spear. Laughs, contemptuously.

JEQON
You forget, Regent. Only a Celestial
Weapon can kill a Celestial Prince.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jegon removes the Spear. Lunges at Urael. Who ducks, and uses Jegon's momentum to FLIP HIM upside down, and HURL him over his head and backward. Urael, turns and sees Jegon inverted, and IMPALED by his Trident's razor sharp handle.

Bastian grabs Alina, and Turel follows. They exit the Cathedral. Moloch will now take the attack to Urael.

Urael approaches Moloch. Removes the Trident from the wall. Glances at Moloch. He stands square. Holds the Trident with two hands, horizontally in front of him.

URAEEL

Something I recall. A mistake.

Dismayed, Moloch realizes what Urael's about to do. The Regent SNAPS Jegon's Trident over his knee. Then, both the Trident and Jegon DISSIPATE into RUSTY-RED gleaming DUST.

MOLOCH

(Furious)

I'll drink your blood from your skull.

Urael stands still. He looks at Moloch. Holds up a hand, beckons to him forward. *Come and get it.*

Moloch leaps on to the Stone Table. Urael follows. They fight. Moloch takes mighty swings but to no effect. Urael dodges each attack. They kick. They punch. Until-

An almighty swing from Moloch misses The Regent, but hits the Stone Table. IMBEDDING one half of his Axe into the Stone.

The other half of the Axe protrudes outward. The fight is now about who can get to the Axe first.

Both land HEFTY BLOWS. However, Moloch gets too close to Urael, who strikes Moloch in the throat with his PALM, and then he KNEES Moloch in the stomach.

Urael grabs Moloch's head, and LUNGES, perpendicularly BACKWARD. They land on their chests, on the Table's surface, in between the axe, facing each other. Urael still holds Moloch's head. But, Moloch's eyes have turned an ASHEN GREY.

Urael releases Moloch. And his decapitated head rolls away from Moloch's body, and falls to the floor.

Urael pulls the Axe from the Table, which CRUMBLES to pieces. Urael then looks toward the area where Bastian fled.

111 INT. THE INTREPID, WELL DECK - NIGHT

111

Nicky arrives at the entrance of the WELL DECK. Drake's old crew are fending off an INFESTATION of Wraiths.

Jules is huddled in the NEMO. She works feverishly on a BOMB. Trying to stay focused and calm, yet still frightened.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nicky slides down a METAL STAIRCASE. Hits the ground. And then goes to work. He moves with a balletic cadence.

Each shot finds a Wraith forehead or eyeball. And when he runs out of BULLETS for his PISTOLS, he HULA-HOOPS, his WINCHESTER from his back to his front. Kills eight more.

For a moment, the area's cleared. Nicky goes to Jules.

JULES
Fuck. C'mon, work!

NICKY
Nemo got a hitch in her giddyup?

JULES
Autopilot's fragged from the EMP.

Over the radio, Gregor's voice;

GREGOR (OS)
We fixed to launch, Jules?

Before Jules can respond, Nicky grabs her radio.

NICKY
(In to the radio)
She's ready to run, G.

JULES
What are you doin'?

Nicky JUMPS into the boat. Tosses Jules the RADIO.

JULES
Are you kidding?

NICKY
(Serious)
Detonator. Now.

Jules bites her lip, and throws a detonator KEY at Nicky.

JULES
Bomb needs two minutes to charge.
Green means ready. You bail off the
boat, and use the Key to detonate.

NICKY
Press charge button. Green means go.
Jump in the chill. Pull trigger. Boom.

JULES
You're a fucking idiot.

NICKY
Tell me somethin' I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jules grabs Nicky's face, kisses him.

JULES
Betcha didn't know that.

NICKY
Betcha I did... *Darlin'*.

Nicks starts *The Nemo*. And speeds out of the Well Deck. Jules smiles momentarily, but then sees the amount of Wraiths in the sky pursuing *The Nemo*.

112 **EXT. HUDSON RIVER--THE NEMO - NIGHT**

112

Nicky speeds away from *The Intrepid*. Wraiths follow. Nicky presses a button on the BOMB, waits for it to CHARGE.

By the time Nicky's 300 yards from *The Intrepid*, he pulls out two FLARE GUNS, shoots them. They detonate. A yellow WEEPING WILLOW TREE of phosphorescent magnesium burns in the sky.

This gets the attention of even more Wraiths.

NICKY
Come on you ugly buzzards.

The Wraiths get closer. Nicky can see the bomb's NOT CHARGED.

NICKY
Aww, hell.

113 **EXT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - NIGHT**

113

Gregor sees the flares go off from *The Nemo*. Then... nothing.

GREGOR
(In to his radio)
Jules. Status?

A few seconds of silence.

JULES (OS)
Nemo's autopilot screwed the pooch.

GREGOR
Don't tell me Nicky-

JULES (OS)
He did.

Gregor cuts off the radio. Looks out at *The Nemo*, worried.

114 **EXT. HUDSON RIVER--THE NEMO - NIGHT**

114

The Wraiths descend on *The Nemo* and Nicky. Nicky un-holsters and takes out as many as he can.

BLEEP

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nicky looks over at the bomb. Green light's ON. Nicky smiles, and attempts to JUMP OFF, but is snatched back by a Wraith. He shoots the Wraith between the eyes. Gets up again. As he jumps, he hears a TEAR. Looks down to see he's been impaled with a Wraith's spear. Nicky totters forward, the DETONATOR falls from his grasp and drops into the River.

Nicky breathes heavily. Gathers what little energy he has to face the other forty Wraiths that've now surrounded him. He raises his gun to shoot, but he is struck with three more spears. The guns drop from Nicky's bloodied hands. Nicky topples into the river. Sinks. Eyes closed.

Suddenly, a bright, PEARLY OPAL LIGHT emanates from the sky above. It illuminates the dark water surrounding Nicky.

Nicky opens his eyes. He can see silhouettes of the Wraiths on the boat above. Nicky looks to his side and sees the detonator floating next to him. Nicky grabs it. Smiles.

He looks up at the *Wraiths* above, grinning, gives them the middle finger and presses the detonator button.

115 **EXT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

115

The crew notice the PEARLY LIGHTS in the sky. But, Gregor's oblivious. He's watches *The Nemo*. Then, it EXPLODES. Evaporating everything within 100 yards.

GREGOR
(Screams)
Nicky!

116 **INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

116

Urael purposefully walks up a flight of STAIRS to a HALLWAY that leads to Bastian's chambers. Between Urael and the chambers is Turel, with his Double-Bladed KATANA spear.

Turel sees Urael holds Moloch's bloody Battle-Axe. Turel stays calm. Urael defiantly holds up the Battle-Axe, with a hand on each blade and TEARS IT IN HALF. Like the Trident it dissolves into a RUSTY-RED gleaming DUST. Turel CHARGES at Urael with righteous anger.

117 **EXT. THE INTREPID--DECK - NIGHT**

117

Sarge, Corporal and a dozen SOLDIERS are backed into the STERN, next to the rear PHALLANX. They fight like mad. But they're losing. Then they see *The Nemo* explode.

CORPORAL
Sarge! Should we go below deck?

SARGE
No... We keep the fight up-

Sarge pauses. She notices PEARLY LIGHTS in the sky. The

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Wraiths also watch, as THREE tubular BEAMS of OPAL LIGHTS simultaneously hit the deck of *The Intrepid*.

They all step-back. The tubular beams morph into THREE REGENTS; Armed with their GILDED DAGGERS, GOLDEN SHORT-SWORDS, and covered in their resplendent pearly-ARMOR.

CORPORAL
C'mon already! More bad guys?

Sarge notices that the Wraiths seem disquieted.

SARGE
I don't think so.

Then, without a word, the Regents launch themselves at the Wraiths. They're faster, stronger, and more skilled. So, they cut through the Wraiths, like a *hot knife through butter*.

Sarge holds up her GUN. Looks at the others.

SARGE
Quit gawking, and get in the fight.

Sarge looks over at one of the Regents.

SARGE
What's your name, Soldier?

The Regent looks up at the sky, sees more Wraiths. He then slightly tilts his head toward the Sargent.

REGENT
(Deep baritone voice)
Your kind call me, Gabrael.

DEEDEE
Copy that. My kind, call me 'Sarge.'
Welcome to the *Dragoons*.

Gabrael, responds with a small nod. He and his two brothers: (MICHAEL & RAPHAEL) throw themselves into the breach.

SARGE
(In to her radio)
Bridge, you seeing this?

BIG T (OS)
(Over the radio)
Seeing? Yeah.

CUT TO:

118 INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

118

BIG T
(Under his breath)
Believin's got some catchin' up to do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everyone's captivated by the *Regents*. Except for Gregor. Gregor's still staring at where Nicky died. Numb.

Then Joe and Jules enter the Bridge. Jules' is in a bad way. Big T looks at them all. They need leadership. So, Big T goes over to Gregor. Puts a hand on his back.

BIG T
(Quiet)
Tonight we fight. Tomorrow we grieve.

Gregor shakes his head like a RATTLE. Comes back to the now.

GREGOR
Don't go quotin' me to me.

Gregor then sees Jules. Joe shakes his head, worried for her. So, Gregor sucks in a deep breath and centers himself.

GREGOR
Okay. Damage report. And...
(Notices the *Regents*)
Are those Knights?

119 INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER--COMMS TOWER - NIGHT

119

Bradley uses a Computer from the Server to get a 3D view of all Dagon's orbital SATELLITES.

BRADLEY
Every Stigma receives a universal signal, delivered by a network of satellites. This gives Dagon control over their emotions, motor functions, memory, and intellect.

SOFIA
If the signal stops?

BRADLEY
The stigma will shut down. The last thing Dagon wants, is a their entire population experiencing free will.

SOFIA
So if we disrupt the signal, everyone with a Stigma will-

BRADLEY
Expire.

Bradley keeps typing. Images on the holo-screen change.

SOFIA
But won't that mean you'll-

BRADLEY
Initiating decommission protocol.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bradley stares at the screen. Whatever he tried didn't work.

BRADLEY
That can't be correct.

SOFIA
What?

Bradley points to the holographic screen. It shows how the *Comet/Craft* is CONNECTED to the *Dagon Satellites*.

BRADLEY
We're locked out. The Space Craft's in control of the Satellite network.

SOFIA
Can we do anything?

BRADLEY
Short of blowing up the Ship, nothing.

The building vibrates. They look up at the *Glass Capstone* on the roof, and see WRAITHS flying. It's the first time they've noticed how the *Veiny Red Lights* have ensconced the city.

BRADLEY
We're too late.

Sofia stares at the holographic image, thinking.

SOFIA
(Under her breath)
Blow it up? No. No. We, we break it.

Sofia takes out the COMMS DEVICE Gregor gave her.

SOFIA
I think this constitutes as an emergency, right?
(Switches on the Device)
Intrepid. Come in. This is LP 2, over.

GREGOR (OS)
Mitten? That you? Where-

GUN FIRE can be heard in the background, over the radio.

SOFIA
Listen. Did you use *Needle*?

CUT TO:

120 INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - NIGHT

120

Joe, Jules, Gregor, Big T and others are on the Bridge. The fight against the *Wraith* army is relentless and ruthless. If not for the *Regents*, *The Intrepid* would be overrun. But even the *Regents* are struggling to keep the enemy at bay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gregor holds the COMMS device, responding to Sofia.

GREGOR
No. Wouldn't help, anyhow.

SOFIA (OS)
That bad?

GREGOR
We got our bell rung.
(Clears his throat)
What about Alina? The formula?

SOFIA (OS)
Unknown. And goose chase. So, change
of plan; I need Jules.

Gregor looks at Jules. She's in shock.

GREGOR
She ain't all there, Mitten.

SOFIA (OS)
Then tell her to get there.

Jules is unresponsive. Joe approaches her. Holds her.

JULES
(Muttering to herself)
They're monsters.

JOE
What did Mama used to say 'bout fear?

Jules wipes away tears, remembers...

JULES
*"Only way to... to slay fear, is to...
to out monster, the monster."*

JOE
So, what's it gonna be, Sweet Pea?

Jules gathers herself. Grabs the radio from Gregor.

121 **INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS**

121

Bastian is with Alina by the fireplace. One hand, on Alina's shoulder, the other on his sword. They can hear a RIOTOUS FIGHT coming from the HALLWAY, outside the door. METAL crashing against METAL. Walls shaking with each hit.

Bastian looks down at Alina. She no longer seems afraid.

BASTIAN
You see me as evil. A fiend.

Alina, boldly nods back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN

The notion of 'good versus evil' is a distinctly human construct. Sadly, your lizard brains evolved to prioritize reason and meaning above all. It's dictated your deeds and desires from the start.

The fighting outside the door gets louder.

BASTIAN

But here's the truth, Princess. The universe doesn't consider deeds. Or desire. Or reason. It's an infinite balancing act, of action and reaction. Like on Earth, you have opposites: Pestilence/panacea. Fire/ice. Rich/poor. Hell/heaven. Cats/dogs. Opposites. But balanced.

(Beat)

Dark & Light, each try to tip the balance. That, Alina, is the universe. Balance. And this planet, is but a speck of sand in an infinite desert of dispute. So, you tell me-

The DOORS of the Chamber EXPLODE inward. Urael stands between the doorway, holding Turel's double-sided Katan. Ten feet behind Urael, is Turel--on his knees--grasping his throat as BLOOD GUSHES OUT.

Turel FLOPS forward, face planted on the hallway floor, dead.

Bastian watches as Urael STABS one side of Turel's weapon into the floor, and then uses his heel to SNAP it in half. The weapon and Turel into that RUSTY-RED gleaming DUST.

Bastian's eyes burn with rage. Whereas Urael is calm. Ready.

122 INT. DAGON COMMS TOWER ROOF ENCLOSURE - NIGHT

122

INTERCUT:

(Between Dagon Research Center & The Intrepid Bridge.)

Dagon Research Center

SOFIA

Don't s'pose you got *Needle's* automated targeting system to work?

JULES (OS)

You helped rebuild it, what do you think? Besides, what's there to hit?

SOFIA

The Comet. I mean, spaceship.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES (OS)
A what-the-fuck did you just say?

SOFIA
No time to explain.

JULES (OS)
An alien invasion? Motherfu-

SOFIA
Front and center, Jules.

The Intrepid

JULES
(Scratches her head)
Um. With no targetin' it'll be like
tryin' to hit a bullet with a dart.

SOFIA (OS)
It's possible, if you throw the dart
at the exact speed, height, and time.

Jules looks at the radio with contempt.

JULES
You joshin'?

SOFIA (OS)
Needle can aim at coordinates, right?

JULES
Yeah. But-

SOFIA (OS)
Use the following: Lat: 482.877056.
Long: 2836.953539. Copy?

Jules has moved to the control system. Types.

JULES
Okay. Now what?

SOFIA (OS)
Get her ready to fire on my mark.

Outside, toward the AFT, a portion of the deck opens, and
'Needle', (RAIL GUN) is lifted upward. The Wraiths turn their
attention to the GUN. Gregor notices.

GREGOR
(To Big T)
Time to throw down, Big Man.

They both grabs GUNS and leave the Bridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES
 (To herself)
 So, we're usin' arithmetic to save the world from an Alien invasion? Fuck me fuckin' sideways.

SOFIA (OS)
 Radio's still on, Jules.

JULES
 I KNOW, DAMMIT!

The Regents have sensed that the Rail Gun requires defending, so they position themselves around it, to fight away Wraiths. Gregor and others are also fighting with what little they have left... time's running out.

123 INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER ROOF - NIGHT

123

INTERCUT:

(Between Research Center & Intrepid Bridge.)

Research Center

Sofia has a PEN in one hand, and is typing on the other. She writes EQUATIONS and SEQUENCES on the surface of the SERVER.

SOFIA
 Need to account for spatial variations, gravitational pull, geostationary fluctuations, air speed, propulsion degradation.

JULES (OS)
 Don't forget kinetic velocity at launch and projectile weight.

SOFIA
 I know. I know. Just give me a sec-

SHRIEK. The sound of Wraith. Or, five to be exact, fly down through the Capstone, toward Jules. Bradley fires at them. But his aim is wayward. Still, it buys Sofia more time.

Bridge

Red spears fly through the windows. One just misses Jules. Another kills a A SOLDIER on the Bridge. She can see another 20,000 approaching from *New-Hallah*.

JULES
 Sof... C'mon.

Research Center

Sofia has made her final calculations. From her periphery of her eye she sees a Wraith approaching. She flips out a PISTOL

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

and shots it between the eyes. Goes back to calculating while Bradley tries to hold off even more Wraiths coming through.

SOFIA
Nearly... nearly... got it!

Bridge

The 20,000 Wraiths are seconds away. Everyone's overwhelmed. And the Phallanx guns have run dry.

JULES
Sof... shit or get off time.

SOFIA (OS)
Wait for it... wait for it...

Research Center

Sofia is watching her screen, monitoring all of the numbers and the Craft's movement in orbit.

SOFIA
Okay. Okay... 'NOW'!

Bridge

Jules pushes a button. The fully charged RAIL GUN explodes into life; A FEROCIOUS RUPTURE of electro-magnetic power, DISCHARGES the Rail-Gun's steel projectile: All goes quiet.

Jules watches the screen, blocks out the noise. Focuses on the Projectile as it rushes into the upper atmosphere.

Research Center

Sofia is doing the same thing. Holding her breath.

END INTERCUT

124 INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

124

As Urael enters the chambers, Bastian is distracted by OPAL LIGHTS over the Hudson. He shakes his head in frustration.

BASTIAN
That gateway is for us. How dare they?

Alina signs words at Bastian. Urael can understand them.

URAEEL
She says; *'When a gate opens, anything or anyone can come through.'*

Alina smiles, smugly back at Bastian. He replies by slapping her across the face. He then goes to the fireplace mantle, grabs the *Golden Short-Sword*, next to the *Gilded Dagger*. He throws it at the feet of Urael.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN

First, you. Then your brothers.

Urael kicks the Sword up into his hands. Bastian charges. They fight with passion. Equally matched. Urael's every move is countered by Bastian. But after a while, Bastian starts to slow. The fight is getting away from him.

Bastian notices Urael keeps glancing at Alina. He disengages from Urael. And goes to Alina. Tightly grabs her shoulders, and holds his *Curved Blade* over her throat.

BASTIAN

Yield. Or, I cut off her pretty head.

Urael stares blankly at Alina. Emotionless.

URAEI

The *Light* is bigger than one life.

BASTIAN

Oh, that's cold. But, predictable.
(Looks at Alina)

Nothing personal, Princess. Glad we had a chance to share a Sundae.

As Bastian is about to chop, Urael drops his sword. Bastian's surprised. He smiles, and tosses Alina over to the fireplace.

BASTIAN

I guess even you can't overcome human sentimentality syndrome.

Urael holds his arms down, palms out, in a gesture of peace. He then looks at Alina.

URAEI

(Sounds more like Kana)
Food for nightmares, Mika Nukka.

Urael turns his back to Alina and Bastian. In turn, Alina stands, upright, filled with intent. Bastian hesitates, confused. Still, he THRUSTS his Sword through Urael's back, and out his chest. Urael coughs up blood, bends over.

URAEI

(Sounding like Kana)
Now, put your back into it.

Bastian hears a flutter of wind and then LURCHES forward in PAIN. He looks over his shoulder, sees the *Gilded Dagger* EMBEDDED in his back. The Dagger was thrown by Alina.

BASTIAN

You little, bitch!

Bastian tries to get hold of the Dagger. But can't reach it. He then notices Urael is in front of him. Bastian's sword

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

poking out from Urael's chest.

125 **EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM--EARTH - NIGHT**

125

The Space Craft's lights continue to pulsate throughout the web of beams connecting the Dagon Satellites together.

Meanwhile...

A dark, cylindrical *Projectile*, menacingly bursts through the Earth's atmosphere, into the silence of Space.

The Projectile pierces the Craft, splitting it in half. The web of lights go dark. The Satellites shut down.

CUT BACK TO:

126 **INT. DAGON TOWER--BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT**

126

Urael grabs Bastian by the arms and squeezes him with a mighty BEAR HUG... IMPALING Bastian on his own sword.

Bastian looks at Urael in the eyes, as they hold each other in a deathly embrace. Urael pushes Bastian to the floor. Bastian slowly perishes in a puddle of his own blood.

Urael reaches behind his back. Pulls out Bastian's sword. He then looks down at Bastian, and uses his knee to break the sword in half. Turning the weapon and Bastian to dust.

Urael kneels momentarily. In great pain. Alina runs to him. Hugs him as hard as she can. She *signs* something to him.

URAEI

Yes. He's still here. He'd like to know if you want to fly?

Alina cocks her head, confused. Then, Urael stands, and stunning, pearly-golden WINGS burst out of his BACK.

127 **INT. THE INTREPID--BRIDGE - NIGHT**

127

Jules is fixated on the screen. She can't tell if the projectile hit or not. A hand touches her shoulder. She flinches. Sees it's her Dad.

JOE

You out monstered, the monster.

Jules looks around. Sees all the Wraiths have dropped dead.

On the deck, Gregor, Big T, and other Soldiers are still alive. The Three Regents stand still at the front of the deck. They look out at the City. One of them flies toward it.

Jules takes a deep breath, grabs the radio.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES
Sof... Still breathin'?

CUT TO:

128 INT. DAGON COMMS TOWER ROOF ENCLOSURE - NIGHT

128

Bradley sits, against a server. He sees Sofia looking at the dead Wraiths. Weary and relieved, she responds to Jules.

SOFIA
(Over the radio)
Seems so.

Sofia turns to see Bradley, she smiles. Relieved he's okay.

BRADLEY
Well done, my friend. Well done.

SOFIA
I was worried you might-

BRADLEY
(Breathing heavily)
I am.

Sofia notices Bradley slouched, unnaturally. He holds the back of his neck. Where his Stigma is imbedded.

BRADLEY
Just... slower.

Sofia kneels in front of Bradley. Takes his hand.

BRADLEY
Do... do you think those like me have
a soul?

SOFIA
Oh, you have a bigger heart, with more
humanity than any human I know.

Bradley's fading. He contemplates Sofia's words.

BRADLEY
This, this feeling, is... is '*faith*'?

SOFIA
Which is how I know, we'll meet again
one day.

Life drains from Bradley's eyes. Sofia holds his hand tighter. Bradley's eyes brighten momentarily.

BRADLEY
Ah. This feeling, must be... '*bliss*'?
(Smiles. Looks past Sofia)
Hello, my love...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bradley fades into the VOID. Sofia holds back a sob, and closes Bradley's eyes. Yet his blissful smile remains.

Sofia hears a RUFFLING NOISE. She looks up at the Capstone, sees Urael descend, cradling Alina in his arms.

Sofia looks at Urael. Confused. Upon hitting the ground Alina sees Bradley. She rushes to him. Holds him. Urael stands still. Allows Alina a moment to grieve.

129 **EXT. THE INTREPID--DECK - DAY**

129

The sun rises to greet the morning. The survivors are gathered on the deck. Some, in shock. Others, mournful.

Joe holds on to Jules, she's exhausted and glassy eyed.

Two Regents at the front of the boat look up to the sky. Two FIGURES fly down to the deck. One is Urael, he holds Alina and Sofia. Gabrael, carries Bradley.

They set them down on the deck. Sofia runs into Gregor's arms. He holds her tightly. She then looks around, trying to find Nicky. Gregor shakes his head. Sofia holds his face close to hers. Gregor finally releases his grief.

Urael's slumped in the corner, badly injured. *The Three Regents* surround him. Silently conferring. Alina sits cross-legged, holding Urael's hand. She looks at the Regents.

GABRAEL

His Light fades. All that remains is enough to save his mortal coil. But, he will's otherwise.

Alina looks, and sees Kana is Kana again. He smiles.

KANA

This whole Light thing is bigger than one little life. Right, *Mika Nukka?*

Alina shakes her head. Unwilling to accept. Kana holds her hand and forces her to look at him. He leans closer to Alina and WHISPERS something only she can hear. She pauses. Exhales. Then nods to Kana.

A small WHITE SPARK of light radiates from Kana's chest. It then BURSTS from his BODY, into a GOLDEN CLOUD above the deck. Wispy, luminescent SNOWFLAKES cascade down, from the cloud.

Kana closes his eyes. In his reverie, he sees his Mother standing atop a sun kissed hill. She's smiles, expectantly.

KANA'S MOTHER (VO)

"O, great River. O, great Wind. Carry him along the River. Guide him home with the Wind."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alina looks at Kana. He's DEAD. She holds his hand.

The Three Regents look up to the sky; a PEARLY GATEWAY opens. They morph into tubular beams of light, and LEAVE.

Alina is joined by Gregor and Sofia. They hold each other tightly, awash in the melancholy glow of the MORNING SUN.

130 **EXT. ISLAND BEACH - MORNING**

130

SUPER: 10 Years Later

The crew of the *The Intrepid* have made a new home on a small ISLAND. *The Intrepid* floats idly, in the bay.

In the hills of the island there are small HUTS and ENCAMPMENTS. Familiar characters appear here and there in a cheerful collage of everyday life.

A large rectangular wooden sign reads: 'Paradise'.

Alina (now 26) stocks a large FISHING BOAT. Food. Medical equipment. FISHING poles. And a BOOMBOX.

ALINA (VO)

A new world was born that day. A world
of peace. Love. Hope.

(*The FEMALE VOICE at the beginning of the story was Alina.*)

Alina waves to Gregor and Sofia who play with their young CHILDREN. Indeed, there are children everywhere.

ALINA (VO)

We don't understand how it worked. We
just know Kana's death, made life
possible again.

Big T and Jules help Alina with the boat. Jules has a BABY strapped to her chest.

ALINA (VO)

I can sense there are still those lost
in the night, yearning for the sun.
It's my responsibility to find them
and bring them home.

Alina's Boat sets a course directed toward the RISING SUN. She waves GOODBYE to her friends. Her tribe. Her family.

A small OBJECT wrapped in CLOTH sits on her lap. She opens it: Kana's *Gilded Dagger*. She SHEATHES it to her BELT.

ALINA (VO)

On the dark days, he appears in my
dreams. And I hear his final words;

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA (VO)
(Whispering)
*"When it feels like the stars are
fading, kindle the cosmos with the
sparkle of your smile".*

Alina reaches over to the old BoomBox. Presses PLAY. The Music Starts: "Here Comes the Sun" - The Beatles.

MUSIC
*Here comes the sun / Here comes the
sun / And I say, it's alright...*

Alina faces the sun and bathes in its glow, as her boat sails outward, into the world beyond.

END