

Battle of the Planets

by

Jonathan Garland

This is a speculative script  
and has no connection to  
the copyright holders.

[word\\_artisan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:word_artisan@yahoo.com.au)  
[www.myspace.com/wordartisan](http://www.myspace.com/wordartisan)

INT. MECHA

We're in a room - fluorescent lighting; lots of shadow; metal walls; and not too big. Think space station. There are several uniformed and masked men here but the one that has our attention is on his knees. The kneeling figure has a more personalised uniform, and is clearly a person of importance. Equally clearly, he's done something very wrong. As our POV circles the room, we hear a voice.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese, subtitled)

You have an opportunity to correct your error. Do not disappoint me.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Forgive me, lord, but is it wise to reveal ourselves in this manner?

ZOLTAR

(Chinese subtitled)

If those documents are not recovered, we face certain defeat. This action is necessary because of your failure.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

I will intercept the package before our enemies, lord, I promise you.

The mysterious voice is revealed to come from a masked figure on a viewscreen. This is ZOLTAR, the Spectra commander.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese subtitled)

Go now. Strike the first blow in the war to come. Then we will rain destruction upon our enemies. Go!

The assembled soldiers cheer and move to exit. Camera slides up as the music starts. As we rise through the ceiling we find we're underwater. CREDITS begin. We break the surface, with a spectacular lens flare, to the fanfare of the BATTLE OF THE PLANETS THEME and begin traveling over the sea surface while credits run. As CREDITS END, we arrive at a shoreline, where a circus big top is the center of a carnival.

EXT. CARNIVAL -- DAY

We're in the sideshow area, with hundreds of people playing games, buying candy and generally enjoying themselves. A young man enters the frame. Meet MARK. He's about 20 years old, lithe, fit and handsome. The guy every girl wants to date and every mother wants to adopt. He's blending in, but he's looking for something as he strolls. He walks up to a man eating fairy floss on a stick. Meet TINY.

About the same age as Mark, this guy has muscles on his muscles. He's not bulky, though. He's supple, like a dancer or martial artist.

MARK

That stuff rots your teeth, you know.

TINY

It's a carnival. You're supposed to eat candy.

MARK

You're taking this undercover thing a bit far, aren't you?

TINY

I never get to do any field work. Don't spoil my fun.

MARK

See anything?

TINY

Nada. Looks like the place is clean.

MARK

I'll go make the exchange. You keep an eye out here.

TINY

Sure. I think I'll go check out that military display.

MARK

No playing with tanks today, okay?

TINY

It's an APC, and I just want to look. Killjoy.

TINY heads off, munching his fairy floss. We follow MARK, as he enters the big top.

INT. BIG TOP -- DAY

A group of teenage girls push past him, and there are some glances and giggles. MARK smiles. The girls smile back. In the group is AGGIE. She's 19, pretty and very self-possessed. We'll meet her later.

A news crew is shooting footage of the circus.

REPORTER

This is only the second time the circus has been in this country, and it's the first visit for the world-renowned aerialist troupe, the Chinese Falcons.

The act in the ring is the trapeze. Among the troupe is a young Chinese boy, maybe 11 years old. This is KEYOP. We marvel at his acrobatics. He concludes a particularly spectacular move and the crowd cheers. KEYOP acknowledges them, and then waves, boy-like, to an old Chinese man hawking foodstuffs ringside. The old man waves back, proudly. MARK sees the old man and begins to move his way.

EXT. CARNIVAL -- DAY

TINY is looking over an APC. A young army lieutenant comes up to him. This is JASON. Like MARK, he's about 20 and a good looking chap. The difference is, JASON has a swagger that tells you he knows it.

JASON

Nice piece of hardware, isn't she?

TINY

I'll say.

JASON

Want to check out the driver's seat?

TINY

You bet.

TINY gets in, lovingly handling the controls.

JASON

Feels good, doesn't she? How would you like to drive one of these?

TINY

That would be sweet.

JASON

This is the life for you, big fella, trust me. Solid pay, career job, and you get to operate this baby all year round.

TINY

Not bad. But I've got my eye on something a little larger.

JASON

What did you have in mind?

There is a thunderous crash, and then the screaming starts. Out of the ocean lumbers an enormous MECHA, squat and four-legged, crushing everything in its path as it heads for the big top. The soldiers mill about uncertainly.

SERGEANT

Skipper?

JASON

Crowd control. Evacuate civilians.

Given direction, the SERGEANT hustles his men into action. TINY talks into his wrist communicator.

TINY  
Mark? We've got a problem.

INT. BIG TOP -- DAY

MARK  
What is it?

TINY (O.S.)  
I don't know, but it's big and headed your way.

The crowd, already nervous from the noise outside, panics as the head of the MECHA pushes into the tent. A ramp opens and Spectra soldiers pour out.

REPORTER  
Holy shit! Gordon, get this on tape. Get it!

The cameraman shoots the action. The soldiers are shooting to intimidate.

SUBCOMMANDER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
There! Get him!

He's pointing at the old Chinese man. Soldiers grab him and haul him to SUBCOMMANDER.

MARK  
Uh-oh.

MARK tries unsuccessfully to get through the stampeding crowd. Looking around, he takes to the stands and starts acrobatically leaping towards the captive. KEYOP looks down from the trapeze.

KEYOP  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Grandfather?

The SUBCOMMANDER searches through the old man's food tray. With a triumphant look, he hold up a canister - the stolen documents.

SUBCOMMANDER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Your son has betrayed Spectra. He will be punished. And it begins with the death of his father. Shoot him.

A soldier (known from this point forward as CIRCUS SOLDIER) shoots the old man.

KEYOP  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
GRANDFATHER!

Reaction from MARK. Reaction from AGGIE in the crowd.

REPORTER

Oh, shit!

KEYOP, in a series of acrobatic moves, leaps down from his vantage point to his grandfather's body. The old man is dead. CIRCUS SOLDIER tries to grab KEYOP. Not a good idea. KEYOP is enraged, and kicks him in the head. We will recognise this soldier for the rest of the film by the dent in his mask. KEYOP begins to lay into the soldiers. He's outnumbered and out of his weight class, but the kid is nimble and has some serious martial arts training.

MARK is mowing through soldiers, trying to reach the SUBCOMMANDER. He's also got some kung-fu magic going on. KEYOP is seized and about to be shot. MARK looks at the SUBCOMMANDER, looks at KEYOP, and hesitates.

MARK

Nuts!

MARK makes his choice. He moves to help the boy. But he's too far away. He'll never make it in time. KEYOP looks into the muzzle of a weapon.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Say hello to your grandfather.

That's all he gets out before he's flattened by a slim whirlwind - AGGIE has joined the fight. She's a whirling dervish. It's like a ballet, but broken soldiers fly in every direction. The distraction allows KEYOP to free himself, and MARK reaches them at the same moment. Now there are three against the mob.

AGGIE

Friends of yours?

MARK

Who are you?

AGGIE

Just a girl looking for a good time.

MARK

You must be hell in the mosh pit.

There's a lull as the soldiers draw back, weapons in hand.

SUBCOMMANDER

Spectra does not tolerate interference. This is only the first blow. Soon you will feel our fist.

AGGIE

I've got your fist right here, jerk!

SUBCOMMANDER

Such arrogance. You are a flea biting at an elephant.

MARK

Fleas have a way of irritating you.

SUBCOMMANDER

Prepare to be scratched.  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Eliminate them!

There is a crash as the APC bursts into the tent, TINY at the controls, JASON on top.

JASON

I'm afraid I'll have to impound your vehicle for illegal parking.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)  
Withdraw!

JASON leaps into the enemy ranks and starts laying about. His style is part kickboxing, part brawling, and all effective. Soldiers gather their wounded and swarm up the ramp and the MECHA starts to withdraw. TINY tries to ram the APC up the ramp, but it doesn't slow the MECHA, which escapes into the sea.

AGGIE is holding KEYOP, who is crying over his grandfather.

AGGIE

Why?

MARK

Because they can. And I don't think it's going to get better any time soon.

He's talking about KEYOP. TINY alights from the APC, which is now sporting several dents.

JASON

You know, the army will expect you to take better care of your vehicle than that.

TINY

Is that going to come out of my insurance policy?

JASON

Who are you people? What the hell is going on here?

MARK

We're the good guys. They were the bad guys.

JASON

Show me some ID, or I'm taking charge of the scene.

MARK

It's all yours. The camera is over there.

MARK steps back as the REPORTER comes looking for an interview. JASON suddenly looks worried.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

We're watching a monitor, on which a news report is showing footage from the attack. JASON is trying to answer questions.

JASON

Er... no, the attack was... uh... they were obviously well organised, and...

REPORTER

Who were the attackers?

JASON

Well, they... uh... I... I'm afraid I'm not at liberty to reveal that information at this time.

REPORTER

What did they want?

JASON

What they wanted... was... uh... I'm sorry, I can't answer any more questions. Thank you.

JASON pushes away from camera. The news report cuts to footage from the fight.

REPORTER (V.O.)

As you can see, the massive metal leviathan disgorged dozens of men in unknown uniforms, who shot and killed one man and may have injured scores of others, if not for the heroic actions of these young people.

Click. The footage freezes. The remote is being operated by CHIEF ANDERSON, a middle-aged man with a neat moustache and deep, intelligent eyes.

ANDERSON

Not exactly the low profile we were hoping for.

MARK

I'm sorry.



ANDERSON

(waving it away)

We didn't know they were coming in force like that. And we certainly didn't expect that attack vehicle.

MARK

What next?

ANDERSON

Those documents would have been useful... no, don't apologise again. But we can make some assumptions even without them. Whoever Spectra are, and whatever they want, clearly they have access to high technology and their plans are large-scale.

MARK

They must be nearly ready to move, or they wouldn't have come out in the open like this.

ANDERSON

Which means we have to be ready for them.

MARK

G-Force? The technology isn't ready and we don't even have a team. What exactly do you suggest we do?

ANDERSON

(looking at monitor)

Recruit.

EXT. HELICOPTER -- DAY

AGGIE looks out the window as we fly over the ocean. JASON sits beside her, in army uniform. She looks at him, he smiles. He'd love to turn on the charm, but there's too much noise. We approach an island.

The helicopter lands. JASON and AGGIE get out and make their way to the building, where MARK waits.

AGGIE

I thought you'd be here.

MARK

Happy to see me?

JASON

(not)

Thrilled.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE -- DAY

The three walk through the building, past a big sign that reads INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ORGANISATION.

MARK

Welcome to Centre Neptune. This is the US base of the International Science Organisation.

JASON

Doesn't look like much.

MARK

Most of the good stuff is underground. But before we do the tour, there's someone who wants to say hello.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

KEYOP looks up as they come into the room, and his face lights up when he sees AGGIE. He rushes into her arms. She is just as happy.

AGGIE

Hey, little guy! I didn't know you were here.

MARK

He has no family in this country, so we're looking after him for the time being.

AGGIE

Are you all right?

KEYOP

Pretty lady.

She's embarrassed but pleased.

MARK

His English is poor and he hasn't said much, but half of what he does say is asking to see the "pretty lady" again.

AGGIE

I'm Agatha. Aggie. What's your name?

ANDERSON

His name is Kee Apngyua. And he's part of the reason you're here.

JASON

Why exactly are we here? It has something to do with that giant robot, doesn't it?

ANDERSON

Yes it does. I'm Michael Anderson, Security Chief for the International Science Organisation.

(MORE)

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

What I'm about to tell you is classified and is not to be repeated. Those soldiers were from an organisation called Spectra. We know almost nothing about them. They've shown up in several locations in the past year, recruiting or abducting soldiers and scientists, and making off with weapons and technology. Dr Kee Jianyu, an ISO scientist kidnapped by Spectra, tried to smuggle information to us. His father, the man who was killed three days ago, was the courier. Kee Apngyua is his son.

AGGIE

(hugging him)

Poor guy.

ANDERSON

We don't know what Spectra wants or where they'll strike next. We need to be ready for them when they do appear.

JASON

The military will take care of these goofballs when they stick their heads out again. That doesn't tell me what I'm doing here.

ANDERSON

The military has power, but they're slow to deploy. We need a small team that can react quickly. That's why you're here.

AGGIE is astonished.

AGGIE

Us? But you don't know anything about us!

MARK

Agatha June. Nineteen years old, science major, scored in the top one per cent of school leavers in the country. Gymnast, representing USA in international competition. Aikido black belt and competitive motorcross rider. And recently the face of a well-known cosmetics company.

JASON

Been surfing the web for a girlfriend, have you?

MARK

Jason Thax. Lieutenant, US Army. Superb marksman with a variety of weapons. Kickboxer and troublemaker. Disciplined four times for brawling. Former NASCAR driver, forced out of the sport for code violations. Described by his superiors as tactically decisive but with an inclination to ignore authority.

JASON

And who are you, boy scout?

ANDERSON

This is Mark Harris. Former FBI, now working for ISO security. He's a Tai Kwon Do black belt and a competitive aerobatics pilot. Won quite a few air races, too.

MARK smiles. AGGIE is impressed. JASON is nettled.

JASON

So you and Ace here think you can take on an army? Fat chance. You haven't got the manpower or the equipment.

ANDERSON

Let's go for a walk.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- DAY

ANDERSON, MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP exit an elevator into a large space that holds several large pieces of equipment and vehicles.

ANDERSON

This is some of the equipment we've been developing in conjunction with the military. Let me introduce you to one of our project leaders, Oliver Harper.

A group of scientists are gathered around a wind-tunnel-like chamber containing a model airframe. This is an experimental version of the PHOENIX. They're trying to get the transmutation to FIERY PHOENIX right, but they've got a few bugs to sort out yet. A figure turns around. It's TINY.

TINY

Call me Tiny.

JASON

Oh, no. You too?

TINY

One big happy family.

ANDERSON

Tiny helped develop and build several of the vehicles you see here.

AGGIE has been drawn to a vehicle which looks like a cross between a motorcycle and a snowmobile. In place of wheels, it has a single rubber track.

AGGIE

Wow.

TINY

She's a beauty, isn't she? Strengthened rubber track and battery powered electric engine will push her along at up to 90 miles an hour in almost any terrain. Road, dirt, snow, sand... wherever you want to go. Given enough speed, she can even cross water for short distances.

AGGIE

(trying it out)  
I think I'm in love.

TINY

I think I'm heartbroken.

MARK coughs, pointedly.

TINY (CONT'D)

Oh, right. Okay, over here we've adapted the same technology into a double-treaded enclosed frame. We sacrificed speed for power, so this one's slower, but it can handle pretty much any kind of terrain, including underwater. Keyop's been helping us test her out, haven't you, short stuff?

KEYOP grins.

ANDERSON

Keyop?

TINY

Sorry, chief. I've given up trying to pronounce his name. He doesn't seem to mind.

KEYOP

Keyop help.

JASON

And you say the military actually helped fund this junk?

ANDERSON

We've reached an agreement with the military. But perhaps we can find something else more your style.

We round the corner and find the car. Low slung and lines that scream "speed".

TINY

This ought to make your heart flutter. Same electric motor, with reinforced suspension and chassis, and puncture-proof tyres. Lab tests have seen her top 300 miles an hour. How would you like to drive this at work every day?

JASON's practically salivating, but he won't give them the satisfaction.

JASON

Look, these toys are very interesting but they aren't going to do squat against an armed opponent.

TINY

(grinning)  
Watch this.

He leans into the car and presses something. The hood splits, exposing the chain gun.

TINY (CONT'D)

30mm chain gun. This will pump rounds through a tank. The other vehicles have their own weapon systems.

TINY moves to a nearby bench.

TINY (CONT'D)

And we've been working on a range of personal weapons as well. Modular handgun, high-tech bola and this...

He picks up a bird-like device and throws it. There is a high-pitched whine and the group cover their ears, staggering, except MARK, who catches the device as it returns to them.

TINY (CONT'D)

Sonic boomerang. Disrupts balance through the auditory canal. Sorry about that.

ANDERSON

We've been planning for this for some time, lieutenant.

JASON

Then you obviously have no idea how a unit works in the field. How do you expect a team to coordinate a rapid-response strike in these things?

TINY

With this thing.

He presses a button and a hangar door rises. There is the PHOENIX, in all her glory. The big, blue VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) jet shines majestically under the lights.

TINY (CONT'D)

I told you I had my eye on something bigger.

KEYOP

Pretty.

AGGIE

She certainly is.

MARK

The Phoenix will transport the team and all vehicles and equipment wherever they need to deploy. She can operate underwater, in atmosphere, or in vacuum for limited periods, though she's not a spaceship. On arrival, the team will assess the situation and react accordingly.

JASON

I suppose we get snazzy uniforms, too?

MARK

Funny you should ask...

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE LAB -- DAY

TINY is talking as they file in.

TINY

The Kevlar weave will practically stop a bullet and, with minor modification, it'll function as a wetsuit or spacesuit for limited periods. There's an inbuilt comm system and homing signal. But the best part is this polymer coating the lab cooked up. It actually increases airflow over the cape, creating an incredible lift coefficient.

AGGIE

You mean... Flight?

TINY

Well, glide, really, and only limited. There's a waist belt storage system for equipment, too. Batman never had it so good. Check this out.

TINY hauls something out of a cupboard. We can't see what the group is looking at.

JASON

You have got to be kidding.

REVERSE to reveal a very sorry-looking prototype uniform. It's a patchwork, miscoloured, wreck - bullet holes, scorch marks, tears and tatters.

TINY

Well, this is the prototype, obviously. We haven't had time to put the final versions together.

ANDERSON

Actually, Tiny, they were finished this morning.

This time, it's ANDERSON's turn to press the button. A wall panel slides back, and there are the uniforms. The eagle, the condor, the swan, the swallow and the owl. Brand new, sparkling... inspiringly heroic. AGGIE is moved by the beauty of her swan outfit. She touches it gently, feeling the fabric.

AGGIE

Why us? There must be dozens of people more qualified.

ANDERSON

There are other people who are qualified, but not more so. We want you on this team because you're an exceptional young woman, Miss June. You're a superb athlete, you have the skills to take care of yourself in a fight, and you have a brilliant scientific mind. But that's not the only reason.

He activates a monitor and we see the news footage again.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

This news footage was seen all over the world, Miss June. Your face is known - your modelling work has seen to that. Spectra knows who you are and, because you were involved in the dispute last week, you're a potential target.



MARK

It isn't safe for you out there,  
Aggie. You need us as much as we  
need you.

On AGGIE - that's a sobering thought.

ANDERSON

There's one more reason, Miss June.  
I don't think our youngest member  
would be happy without you.

AGGIE looks at KEYOP, who grins.

KEYOP

Pretty lady.

JASON

What? You're putting this infant  
on a tactical team? Are you insane?

ANDERSON

Without information, we are  
operating in the dark. Keyop is  
the only one who has actually been  
close to Spectra, through his  
father. He's one of the best  
acrobats in the world and has been  
trained in the martial arts all  
his life. The group that attacked  
three days ago spoke Mandarin.  
Keyop understands that and several  
other eastern languages. We need  
him.

MARK

What about it, Aggie?

AGGIE

But... my science degree.

ANDERSON

You'll be part of the International  
Science Organisation. I think we  
can work something out.

AGGIE's out of excuses. And damn that battlesuit looks  
heroic.

AGGIE

It'll be dangerous, won't it?

MARK nods. AGGIE shares a look with KEYOP.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

Then I guess someone should be  
there to keep an eye on you.

They hug.

JASON

Are you out of your gourd? These idiots are going to get you killed. This isn't a fairy tale, Princess!

AGGIE

Don't call me Princess!

Stalemate.

JASON

Whatever. I'm out of here. You might be able to convince Miss Civic Duty, but you're not putting me into one of those chicken suits.

MARK

Actually, you don't have a choice.

JASON

What?

ANDERSON hands JASON a letter.

ANDERSON

I told you that we'd reached an agreement over funding this project. The military agreed to help us out, but only if they could put a military member on the team. I spoke to the Minister for Defense and he signed the order two days ago. Welcome to your new unit, soldier.

JASON is stunned, then furious. He crumples the letter in hand. Looking for an outlet for his frustration, he swings a punch at the wall.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE GYM -- DAY

WHAM! JASON's punch lands on a heavy bag. We're in a training area. It's got a high roof and several ropes and platforms at various heights. This will get a workout later. There's a weights area, where JASON is taking his anger out with some exercise, and he's got a major sweat up. After a few more blows with fists and feet, he leans on the bag, exhausted.

TINY (O.S.)

You've got some serious aggro there, soldier.

TINY is seated nearby, doing biceps curls.

JASON

You chose this. I didn't.

TINY shrugs. The silence lengthens.

JASON (CONT'D)

I mean, it's not like you're actually going to achieve anything with this little club of yours. A handful of kids? Come on.

TINY

So help us. You're the military expert.

JASON

In a regular unit, I could do some good. That's where I belong. Not nursemaiding the Partridge Family.

TINY

So why were you marking time at a recruiting display?

JASON doesn't have a good answer to that.

JASON

I don't answer to you.

TINY racks the bar.

TINY

No, you don't. It sounds like you don't answer to anyone. How's that working out in the army?

JASON

It's working out just fine.

TINY

Me, I couldn't last in the military. Early mornings, marching everywhere, saluting all over. Too regimented for my liking.

JASON

That's why it works. The discipline.

TINY

That's why the army works. But regimentation isn't the only path to discipline. I work in physics and engineering. If my calculations aren't precisely accurate, something I've developed could blow up in my face - or worse, in someone else's. I've had a hand in most of the equipment you saw in the lab yesterday. Most of it is lethal. For the guy at the pointy end if it works, or for the operator if it doesn't. What I do can mean life or death. I take that very seriously.

JASON

Is that why you're here?

TINY

That, and the food is great. Look, Jason, this might not be the kind of unit you wanted. But you could do a lot of good here. I've only ever fought in the dojo. You've got real combat experience. That might make the difference between living and dying for us.

JASON

You didn't answer the question. Why are you doing this?

TINY

Because I can make a difference. Not just working in a lab. I'm talking about going out and taking on the bad guys, face to face. There's something noble here that's bigger than you and me. And I want to be part of it.

TINY's conviction makes JASON thoughtful.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The room has a window that overlooks the gym. ANDERSON and MARK are looking at JASON and TINY from their vantage point high above.

MARK

He's going to be trouble. You know that.

ANDERSON

Then it will your job to manage him, commander.

MARK

Commander. He's going to love that.

ANDERSON

He's a soldier. He'll rage against it, but he'll follow orders. Question is, can you give them?

MARK hesitates.

MARK

He's right, you know. We are a bunch of green kids playing dress-ups.

ANDERSON

Tiny and Aggie have I.Q.s that dwarf the rest of you combined.

(MORE)

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Jason is a superb marksman. Keyop understands half a dozen languages. And you have a sharp analytical and deductive mind. You're all incredibly fit and skilled martial artists. In all respects, you are superior young men and women.

MARK

Young. That's the point. We're not experienced and we're not trained for this.

ANDERSON

You are.

MARK

For security work! For surveillance. I'm not qualified to lead a team into combat. They're going to be looking to me in situations that I can't even imagine. What if I don't have it? What if I make a wrong choice and someone gets hurt? What if...

MARK forces himself to stop and take a breath.

MARK (CONT'D)

Jason is the soldier. He should lead the team.

ANDERSON

If Jason was commander, people would get hurt. You've read his file - he doesn't trust anyone but himself. He doesn't understand group dynamics and he puts the mission ahead of the team. That's why you're the man for the job. I saw that news footage. You could have recovered the package. But you saw Keyop was in danger and you made the choice to save him. Seeing possibilities is one of your strengths, Mark. But you have to be decisive, or you'll freeze. If you don't lead, they won't have anything to follow.

MARK

If it was just me. Or even Jason and Tiny. But Aggie and Keyop...

ANDERSON

Don't worry too much about them, Mark. They're sensible youngsters and they understand what we're asking them to do. I'm confident they'll give us their most serious commitment.

EXT. CENTRE NEPTUNE ISLAND -- DAY

AGGIE is riding the bike, with KEYOP riding pillion. They are whooping and hollering and having a blast as AGGIE takes them through scrub, over hills and along creeks at breakneck speeds.

AGGIE  
Isn't this great?

KEYOP  
Fun!

AGGIE  
I'll say!

There's a beep from the console, followed by a voice.

ANDERSON  
Miss June, would you care to join us in the gymnasium?

KEYOP  
Spoil fun.

AGGIE  
Don't worry, Keyop. I'm sure there's more to come.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE GYM -- DAY

AGGIE and KEYOP hurry in to join JASON, TINY and ANDERSON. AGGIE gives TINY a hug.

AGGIE  
Tiny, that bike is incredible!  
I've never ridden anything like it.

TINY  
(flattered, flustered)  
Glad you like it.

JASON  
Let's see how it works in combat.

ANDERSON  
We will, and possibly sooner than we would like. Spectra could attack again at any time. You need to familiarise yourself with your equipment and begin training as a team.

AGGIE  
Where do we start?

There is a high-pitched whine as the sonic boomerang flies over their heads. They stagger, looking up to see it caught again by MARK on one of the high platforms. For the first time, we see somebody in G-Force uniform. MARK returns the boomerang to his belt.

MARK

With the battlesuit.

He leaps, extending his wings. Defying gravity, MARK descends in a steep glide, swings his legs forward and lands gracefully in a crouch.

AGGIE

Oh, wow!

KEYOP

Magic suit.

JASON

(re: belt buckle)

What's the G for? Gay?

TINY

Hey, G-Force is not gay!

MARK

You don't want to wear the suit?

JASON

You look ridiculous.

MARK

You've been pretty clear about telling us we're not up to the challenge, Jason. Here's your chance. Knock me down.

JASON is wary of a trap.

MARK (CONT'D)

Give him some space, everyone.

They draw back, leaving JASON and MARK in the centre of the gym.

MARK (CONT'D)

Go ahead. Take your shot. Show us we can't meet your standards.

JASON hesitates a moment more, then adopts a fighting stance. MARK waits, passively. JASON kicks out. MARK blocks, flips the cape over JASON's head, and sweeps his legs out from under him.

MARK (CONT'D)

Notice how the cape can be used to obscure an opponent's vision, impairing his ability to land a blow, or to block yours.

JASON is back on his feet, humiliated and angry. This time he punches. MARK wraps his cape around JASON's fist, then shoves him in the chest with an open palm, knocking him to the ground.

MARK (CONT'D)

Or you can use it to trap a limb,  
temporarily incapacitating his  
ability to strike.

JASON comes at him with another punch. MARK stands still and takes it in the chest, jumps back a step to create space, then leaps into the air, spreading his wings. At the apex of the jump, he kicks JASON in the head, and the soldier goes down again.

MARK (CONT'D)

Despite it's lightness, the  
battlesuit will partially absorb a  
blow, and the lift generated by  
the wing surface allows you to  
jump much further than usual. You  
can jump for height...

JASON, enraged, comes at him with a flying kick. MARK leaps away, wings carrying him several paces away.

MARK (CONT'D)

...or distance, withdrawing from  
combat if you choose.

JASON picks up a light hand weight from a nearby rack and throws it at MARK, who easily blocks it with the cape.

MARK (CONT'D)

The cape and suit material will  
slow projectiles, offering some  
protection even from bullets...

JASON closes and this time MARK allows it. There is a furious trade of blows that ends with JASON knocked down again.

MARK (CONT'D)

...but it's supple enough not to  
impede your movement.

He offers an arm to the prone JASON.

MARK (CONT'D)

You just have to work with it, not  
against it.

JASON gets himself up without help. MARK is disappointed, but pushes on.

MARK (CONT'D)

Start spending time in your suits  
and with your equipment. You need  
to know how they operate. When  
the time comes to use them, you  
can't stop to think. It has to be  
instinctive. Ask questions,  
practice, push the boundaries of  
what you can do. Work together.

(MORE)



MARK (CONT'D)

When Spectra shows up again, the five of us need to be a team. Are you with me?

TINY

You got it, Mark.

AGGIE

Yes, Mark.

KEYOP

Team!

MARK

Jason?

JASON looks at them, then stalks to the door, where he stops to speak over his shoulder to them.

JASON

We'll be lucky to survive the first mission.

He exits. MARK and ANDERSON share a look.

TRAINING MONTAGE

To a music soundtrack, we see a training sequence including (but not limited to):

AGGIE tests the battlesuit's ability to enhance her gymnastics, leaping from a tumbling run, or the uneven bars.

KEYOP practices acrobatics in his battlesuit, high up in the training space.

JASON assembles and disassembles his pistol, learning the mechanism.

TINY and MARK spar, practicing the battlesuit's fighting capabilities.

TINY explains the weaponry of the bike to AGGIE.

JASON, making sure he's alone, practices gliding and fighting moves in the battlesuit.

MARK becomes familiar with the controls of his jet.

JASON fires his pistol at an underground range. The torso-shaped target shows a good, tight grouping, and JASON smiles. Suddenly a bola wraps around the target's neck, then explodes, taking the head clean off. JASON looks around at KEYOP, who grins.

TINY shows the others around the flight deck of the Phoenix, explaining systems.

MARK and AGGIE practice in battlesuits. She flings him upward to a platform, then leaps after him.

He grabs her hands, using her momentum to propel her higher.

JASON drives the car on rollers in the lab, while TINY sits next to him explaining the weapon system.

MARK and ANDERSON study data on the MECHA.

AGGIE and KEYOP play aerial tag in battlesuits, laughing.

AGGIE practices combat with her yo-yo against MARK and KEYOP. It must be mechanical, because she can swing it like a weighted line before retracting it to her hand. And it can emit a concussive burst of sound and light, which is pretty debilitating when it happens next to your head.

KEYOP practices with his buggy.

EXT. CENTRE NEPTUNE BEACH -- MORNING

MARK is going through some kind of kata on the beach. The others are watching.

JASON

What is it with him?

TINY

What do you mean?

AGGIE

You have to admit, Tiny, he never slows down. Everything he does is focused on preparing for G-Force.

KEYOP

No fun.

TINY

I don't think he knows how to have fun. The way I hear it, his parents were killed in a robbery when he was a kid. He was raised in a State facility. Sheer hard work got him into the FBI, where he came to Chief Anderson's attention. I think he just wants to make the world a safer place.

JASON

Shit, we're working for Batman.

AGGIE

(indicating Keyop)

Jason!

JASON has the good grace to show remorse for his bad language.

TINY

He didn't have many friends growing up. I know how he feels.

(MORE)

TINY (CONT'D)

Do you know how hard it is for a high-IQ science geek to be popular?

AGGIE

Yes.

JASON

Looking like that? Come on, Princess.

AGGIE

Don't call me Princess. I could think rings around the other kids, I could kick the boys' asses, and the girls hated me because I was a model. The only people who wanted to know me wanted something from me. It was a lonely way to grow up.

Beat.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

What about you?

JASON's first reaction is to throw out a flippant comment or acerbic remark. But he sees they genuinely want to know, and he thinks better of it.

JASON

I was an army brat. Never stayed in one place long enough to make friends. My mother left, and my father and I never had what you'd call a caring relationship. I joined the army to get away from him. And I hated it, because it felt like I was becoming him.

This is too much sharing for JASON to be comfortable.

JASON (CONT'D)

(Keyop)

What about him?

KEYOP

No mother. Father work. Grandfather care. Grandfather...

The death is too recent and KEYOP begins to cry. AGGIE holds him and even JASON puts a comforting hand on his shoulder. Good grief, are these people actually bonding?

MARK has approached during the conversation. He sees that something has changed, but he doesn't know what it is.

MARK

What's going on?

Before anyone can answer, five wrist communicators go off at once. The group share a look.

MARK (CONT'D)

Come on.

They hare for the complex.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The main monitor has become a multi-screen tactical information station. We see real-time satellite imagery of the MECHA flying low over a landmass, a map with grid lines and the MECHA's flight path, and a stack of statistics.

MARK

Chief?

ANDERSON

The Spectra assault vehicle has been spotted about 500 miles south, heading inland. We don't yet know the target. It's already passed several population centers. Suit up and lift off. We'll feed you data as we get it. It's time, G-Force. Good luck.

MARK

Let's go, team.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

JASON is the last one onto the flight deck. TINY is at the controls.

JASON

This suit still looks ridiculous.

AGGIE

Only on you.

JASON

Bite me.

MARK

People. Tiny, let's go.

TINY

Flooding the chamber.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- DAY

The exterior hangar door opens and water floods in. The submerged Phoenix fires her engines and moves out into the ocean, rising to the surface and bursting into the air.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK

How does she handle, Tiny?

TINY

She's perfect.

MARK

Then let's stretch her wings.

TINY

Love to.

He pushes the throttle forward and the Phoenix smoothly powers ahead, soaring like a bird of prey.

TINY (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah, baby. Purr for me.

JASON

I think I speak for everyone when I say - you desperately need a girlfriend.

MARK

Aggie, is Centre Neptune on line?

AGGIE

We're getting their data. It looks like Spectra has chosen a spot. They're on the ground now. It's an industrial centre. There's a petroleum refining facility, military logistic centre, a storage facility and several manufacturing plants. They could be going for any of them.

JASON

Or all of them. Do all their shopping in one spot.

MARK considers that.

TINY

We'll find out in a minute. Coming up on the area now.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix crests a mountain range and we see the MECHA advancing on a field of large buildings.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK

There's the Stegosaur.

JASON

Stegosaur? That's what we're calling it?

TINY

Looks more like a Terrapin to me.

KEYOP

(pointing)  
Split up.

AGGIE

Keyop's right. The Stegosaur is releasing some smaller vehicles.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

A small fleet of trucks and escort vehicles exit the Stegosaur.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK

Looks like Jason was right. They have more than one target.

JASON

If there's more than one target, let's start with the biggest one.

JASON arms the weapons system.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

Missile racks extend from the hull.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

JASON

Let's give that Steg a sore ass.

KEYOP

No!

He leaps to wrestle JASON's hand away from the firing controls.

JASON

What are you doing, peewee? Are you nuts?

MARK

Jason, no.

JASON

Why the hell not? If we take out the attack vehicle, we can mop up the smaller ones later.

MARK

We don't know if Spectra has a base, or if they just operate out of this thing.

JASON

So? All the more reason to blow it to hell.

AGGIE

Jason. Keyop's father could be in there.

JASON looks at KEYOP. He hadn't thought of that.

JASON

Great. So what do we do?

MARK hesitates. They're all looking to him for leadership.

TINY

Guys? No rush or anything, but the Stegosaur is nosing into one of those warehouses.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

The Stegosaur is forcing it's head into a warehouse, causing massive property damage in the process.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

AGGIE

Mark?

MARK

Split up. We'll take them one on one. Tiny, prepare for separation.

TINY

That's a big 10-4.

JASON

What are you? A truck driver?

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Sir, we have a visitor. Unknown configuration.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

If it threatens us, destroy it.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix descends, hovering near ground level.

INT. PHOENIX -- VARIOUS -- DAY

TINY

Comm check. Aggie?

AGGIE starts the bike.

AGGIE

I can hear you, Tiny.

KEYOP is in his buggy, lights from the control panel shining off his visor.

TINY (O.S.)

Keyop?

KEYOP

Keyop ready.

JASON is stroking the car's steering wheel almost lovingly.

TINY

Jason?

JASON

Yeah, yeah, just put me on the ground and get out of the way.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The wingtip pods open. A platform drops from one, and AGGIE is away before it even hits the ground. The buggy is lowered from the other pod, and KEYOP roars off. The nose cone of the Phoenix retracts, exposing the car, which is lowered to the ground. Spewing dust and gravel, JASON speeds away. The Phoenix rises into the air again.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

It's your turn, commander.

MARK is completing preflight.

MARK

I hope I'm doing the right thing, Tiny.

TINY (O.S.)

Go get 'em, Mark.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The tail section opens and the jet emerges. It's a VTOL jet, like the Phoenix itself.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Okay, let's get organised. Jason, you and Aggie stop those trucks. I'm going to see if I can distract the Stegosaur. Tiny, you and Keyop hang back and be ready to jump in if things get out of hand.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

I can help you with the Stegosaur.

MARK (O.S.)

No, you're our eye in the sky, Tiny. Stay there.

TINY

(disappointed)  
Big 10-4 from the truck driver.



EXT. WAREHOUSE -- DAY

There are two trucks parked at a loading bay next to a warehouse. Soldiers are loading crates. Three jeeps with machine guns mounted are there as escort. JASON pulls up about 100 meters away. He revs the engine.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Get rid of him.

One of the jeeps speeds towards JASON.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
Don't play chicken with a man in a  
bird suit.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

With squealing tyres, he takes off for the oncoming jeep.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON presses the button...

EXT. CAR -- DAY

...and the hood splits to reveal the chain gun. The jeep keeps coming. Suddenly, AGGIE cuts across between them.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
What the hell!

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON swerves to avoid her and almost loses control. He skids to a halt, an easy target for the jeep, which sprays him with bullets. JASON takes off and the jeep pursues.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
What are you doing?

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE has pulled up.

AGGIE  
We don't have to kill them!

JASON (O.S.)  
In case you didn't notice, they're  
shooting at us!

AGGIE  
Duck!

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

You're the duck. I'm a bird of prey. Now stay out of my way!

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE

Great.

She roars off.

EXT. WAREHOUSE -- DAY

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

(to jeep soldiers)

Destroy those vehicles.

(to foot soldiers)

Finish loading. Quickly!

The other two jeeps race off after the first.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK presses controls.

MARK

Okay, ugly, stop what you're doing and look up.

EXT. JET -- DAY

MARK fires and bullets zing off the Stegosaur's hull.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Sir, the smaller craft is firing.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Then blow it out of the sky.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

Missile racks extrude from the hull and a missile is fired at MARK. The jet evades.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

You'll have to do better than that.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

A mobile missile launcher emerges from the Stegosaur's hold and fires several missiles at the jet.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Okay then.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON is swerving to evade machine gun fire from the jeep behind him.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

I've had enough of this. Time to turn things around.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON accelerates away, then skids into a bootlegger turn, reversing the car. As the car skids to a halt he triggers the chain gun and the jeep belches smoke. Soldiers leap clear as it bursts into flame.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

Next victim.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

One of the other jeeps rounds the corner, firing.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

Fast service.

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE pulls up near the trucks. Foot soldiers raise weapons to fire at her.

AGGIE

Suck gas, evildoers.

A rack of mini missiles extrudes from the bike. One shoots towards the loading dock and explodes. The explosion itself does no harm, but a cloud of gas envelopes and chokes the soldiers.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Move out. Signal the jeeps to kill that rider!

Soldiers jump into the trucks. One raises a walkie-talkie. AGGIE looks around as the remaining jeep closes on her.

AGGIE

Tag. You're it.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

The mobile missile launcher is making MARK's life difficult.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Tiny. A little help?

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

Keyop's on his way.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

KEYOP's buggy pulls up near the mobile missile launcher.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

What is that?

A pair of cylinders, something like mortar tubes, extrude from the buggy. There is a muffled thump, and two projectiles fly toward the missile launcher. As they get close, their flight path changes and they magnetically attach themselves to the launcher with a thud.

CIRCUS SOLDIER (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)

What the...

He leans over to look at one of the devices. It's a cylindrical object emitting flashes of light. The flashes are accelerating.

CIRCUS SOLDIER (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)

Run!

The soldiers jump from the launcher and run for the Stegosaur. The launcher explodes. The "jaw" of the buggy opens and KEYOP gets out. He looks at the open hold of the attack vessel.

KEYOP

Father...

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON and the jeep are racing between buildings, each trying to gain an advantage. Shots are exchanged. JASON notices the trucks pulling away.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

As much fun as this is, I think  
I'll go play with your big brothers.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON hits a straight stretch of road and leaves the jeep in the dust. He's heading for the trucks that we can see in the middle distance, driving for the Stegosaur.

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE is being pursued by the jeep. Only her maneuverability keeps her from getting shot.

AGGIE

Okay, so your floorwork is good.  
Let's see how you handle the vault.

Rounding the corner at the back of the warehouse, she fires a missile. It explodes at the base of a lighting tower, which falls and blocks the available space. AGGIE takes the loading ramp and jumps, clearing the obstacle. The jeep tries to follow, mistimes, and crashes. AGGIE stops and looks back.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

Bad dismount.

The sound of gunfire turns her head and she sees JASON chasing the trucks.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing now, Jason?

She roars off. The final jeep appears, collects the soldiers from the crash site, and follows.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

Ah, Mark, we could have a problem.

MARK (O.S.)

What kind of problem?

TINY

Keyop isn't in his buggy. I think he's gone into the Stegosaur.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Shit.

(beat)

Okay, I'm going after him. See if you can draw their fire.

TINY (O.S.)

On it.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- DAY

Soldiers run around the cavernous hold, oblivious to KEYOP leaping from place to place above them.

KEYOP sneaks into a corridor, closing the access hatch behind him, making his way forward. He hears voices and crouches behind a door.

SUBCOMMANDER (O.S.)  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Our cargo is almost complete, my lord. We will depart in moments.

ZOLTAR (O.S.)  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Be swift. You must be gone before the enemy can engage you.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

SUBCOMMANDER is reporting to ZOLTAR, on screen.

SUBCOMMANDER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Ah... Lord Zoltar, we have been attacked by a small force of unconventional vehicles. They are no match for us.

ZOLTAR  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Record their attack for study by our scientists here at base. And ensure they are destroyed.

SUBCOMMANDER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 It will be done, lord.

MECHA SOLDIER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Sir, the large vehicle is approaching.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix hovers closer to the Stegosaur, while MARK lands.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK (O.S.)  
 I'm down, Tiny.

TINY  
 Big 10... whoa!

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

Before TINY can finish his sentence, a missile from the Stegosaur forces him to evade.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

KEYOP  
 Tiny!

Every head in the room turns to the door.

KEYOP (CONT'D)

Uh-oh.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Get him!

KEYOP leaves in a hurry.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese, subtitled)

Stop! Return to base immediately.  
I want that prisoner, Subcommander.  
And then we will discuss the laxity  
of your security.

The screen image fades.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Finish loading cargo and return to  
base. I will capture the prisoner.

SUBCOMMANDER hurries after KEYOP.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON has caught up to the trucks.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

Now, what would you guys want from  
a military base?

EXT. CAR -- DAY

A soldier in the back of the rearmost truck opens a box,  
and shoulders a rocket launcher.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

I had to ask.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

The soldier fires and JASON swerves to avoid the explosion.  
The tires bite gravel at the side of the bitumen and the  
car spins. AGGIE, traveling flat out to catch up, can't  
quite brake in time.

AGGIE

Yikes!

She collides with the car. It's little more than a bump.

JASON

Watch where you're going!

AGGIE  
Learn to park!

While they trade insults, the sole remaining jeep roars past and joins the trucks, which have made it into the Stegosaur's hold. The hold closes and the Stegosaur takes to the air.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
Tiny, that flying toaster is leaving. Come get us.

TINY (O.S.)  
I can't. Mark and Keyop are inside - I have to follow it.

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE  
Oh, no!

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
Those idiots! Look, that metal mountain has got nowhere to hide and the Phoenix can easily outrun it.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

JASON (O.S.)  
When you catch it, you can't do anything by yourself.

TINY  
(hesitates)  
Okay. I'm coming down.

JASON (O.S.)  
(sarcastically)  
Big 10.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- DAY

KEYOP is doing his best in close combat against SUBCOMMANDER, but the adult has weight and reach the boy doesn't. Soldiers watch the combat.

SUBCOMMANDER  
I remember you, boy. But this time, you are alone.

The sonic boomerang flies overhead and SUBCOMMANDER and his soldiers stagger. MARK lands on the deck next to KEYOP, catching the returning boomerang.

MARK  
Count again.



SUBCOMMANDER

Two prisoners. Excellent. I did not have leisure to test you myself at our last meeting. Let us remedy that.

MARK

Let's.

They go at it. MARK is clearly the better fighter, which infuriates SUBCOMMANDER, who is soon bruised and bleeding. But MARK is playing for time, not going for a decisive blow. The soldiers have not bothered to apprehend KEYOP, who looks around for an escape. He sees light in the missile bays at the top of the hold - they have not yet been closed. KEYOP surreptitiously draws a bola from his belt.

When next MARK meets his gaze, KEYOP indicates upward with his eyes. MARK gets his drift and looks for a diversion. He sees the trucks that raided the military warehouse. He indicates to KEYOP, and the youngster nods his understanding.

MARK (CONT'D)

How's that test coming along?

SUBCOMMANDER

You fight well. But you are few. You cannot stand against the might of Spectra.

MARK

I'm still standing.

He knocks SUBCOMMANDER down.

MARK (CONT'D)

Keyop, now!

KEYOP throws his bola, which disappears into the covered tray of the nearer truck. There is a huge explosion as the ordnance is detonated by the blast from the bola. The concussive blast staggers the Stegosaur. The floor shifts and everyone falls. Except MARK and KEYOP - they're already leaping for the missile bays and escape.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Shoot them!

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

No! Fools, you'll hit the missiles!

KEYOP and MARK reach the missile bay and look out.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

It's a long way down. They look at each other.

KEYOP

Plan?

MARK

Well, we can't stay here.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- DAY

MARK is fiddling with his belt. He withdraws a small metal object, and stows it securely in the Stegosaur's missile workings somewhere. KEYOP looks down at the soldiers who are climbing towards them.

KEYOP

Time we go?

MARK

Yes. Time flies. Luckily, so do we. Ready?

KEYOP

Ready.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

MARK and KEYOP leap out of the Stegosaur, wings extended, gliding to safety. They shout over the wind noise.

KEYOP

Long way to ground!

MARK

We don't have to go that far. Look!

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix is close behind the Stegosaur.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

AGGIE

There they are!

JASON

Get under them, Tiny.

TINY

Already there.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix gets under MARK and KEYOP, who land near the top hatch and enter safely.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK and KEYOP enter the bridge.

AGGIE

Are you all right?

JASON  
What kind of idiot stunt was that?

TINY  
Easy, Jason.

JASON  
Like hell! Two against an army?  
Insane!

KEYOP  
Want find father.

MARK  
(a warning)  
It doesn't matter. Let's drop it.

JASON  
No, let's not. I'm not going into  
combat if my backup has a death  
wish.

AGGIE  
Typical. It's all about you, isn't  
it?

MARK  
Aggie, stop.

AGGIE  
Listen to him! His backup.  
Arrogant pig.

JASON  
I didn't charge alone into an enemy  
stronghold like White Eagle and  
Birdboy, here!

AGGIE  
No, you played chicken with an  
armed jeep like a moronic rev head!

JASON  
You cut across when I was about to  
fire! I could have shot you!

AGGIE  
Not on your best day!

MARK  
Settle down!

JASON  
You're going to get yourself killed!  
This is not a cartoon, Princess!

AGGIE  
I told you...

She flattens him with a kick, shoving him into a panel on  
the other side of the cockpit.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

...don't call me Princess!

JASON is furious. He pushes off the wall, ready to mix it up. MARK is there to stop him.

MARK

Stop it! Back off, both of you!

JASON and AGGIE glare at each other. Into the dramatic silence comes the sound of clapping. It's TINY.

TINY

No, go ahead, please. This is really entertaining. I've got nothing better to do. I mean, the bad guys are getting away, but what the hell. We don't need them. It's more fun to beat each other up. I can see the intelligence and serious commitment Aggie's bringing to the team. And Jason's example of military leadership and cohesion is very stirring. To think, I could be wasting my time in the lab, tinkering with high-tech stuff, improving our world. But no, I wanted to be part of G-Force, the best and brightest the planet has to offer. Going out and fighting the good fight. Leading by example and showing the world that terrorist organisations like Spectra don't go unopposed. Sleep safely, boys and girls! G-Force is looking out for you! Be proud!

Shamed, nobody knows what to say or do.

MARK

Turn us around, Tiny. Let's pick up the vehicles and go home.

JASON

We're not going after the Stegosaur?

MARK

Obviously, we're not in any fit state to face them.

JASON throws himself into a seat.

JASON

I knew this was a bad idea.

MARK

And you were right, Jason. I'm sorry you were forced into this. When we get back, I'll see that you're returned to your unit.

JASON is surprised.

JASON  
I thought I didn't have a choice.

MARK  
You had doubts and you were right.  
Nobody will force you to stay.

AGGIE  
I can't believe we're letting them  
get away. We didn't even learn  
anything more about them.

KEYOP  
Base.

JASON  
What?

KEYOP  
Base. Monster not... only place.  
Spectra man talk to other one.  
Other place. Base. Where  
scientists kept.

MARK  
You heard this?

KEYOP nods.

AGGIE  
Then we have to follow them!

JASON  
We have to know where that base  
is.

TINY  
Mark?

MARK  
No. If they see we're following  
but not engaging, they'll know  
what we're after.

JASON  
But if we don't follow them, we  
won't find it.

MARK  
Not necessarily. Aggie, can you  
track my locator?

AGGIE  
Of course. But why?

TINY  
We can see you from here, Mark.

AGGIE works at her station.

AGGIE

It's moving away from us. How did you...?

JASON

You left it on the Stegosaur, didn't you?

MARK smiles. TINY laughs. JASON is almost impressed, but catches himself.

JASON (CONT'D)

Yeah, well. One lucky decision doesn't make a successful mission.

MARK

Let's go home.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The beautiful big bird wings its way back to Centre Neptune.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- NIGHT

AGGIE walks over to where TINY is working at the wind tunnel.

AGGIE

Hey.

TINY

Hey, Aggie.

AGGIE

What are you doing?

TINY

Tinkering. It calms me down.

AGGIE

I'm surprised you need calming. You're one of the most intelligent, centered people I know.

TINY

I implode. Keep it all inside. Not like you. Nice kick, by the way.

AGGIE

I'm sorry. He just made me so mad.

TINY

Was he wrong?

AGGIE

What do you mean?

TINY

Jason had a point. You could have been killed.

AGGIE

I've never been shot at. Or shot at anyone. I guess I was a little tense.

TINY

Only natural.

AGGIE

I should have controlled my temper.

TINY

Maybe he deserved it.

AGGIE

Maybe. But I feel bad about it. It's just... this is huge. Being part of G-Force is the biggest thing I've ever done, Tiny. I don't have training, like Mark and Jason, or experience, like you and even Keyop. I'm a sheltered, pretty-girl university student. I feel like I have to prove every minute that I deserve to be on the team.

TINY

You know Chief Anderson was with the FBI before he joined ISO? Fairly high up, too. He's recruited, trained and evaluated hundreds of agents, male and female. The man knows talent when he sees it. With his connections, he could get anyone he wanted for this team. He picked you. What does that tell you?

AGGIE thinks about it. She smiles.

AGGIE

How did you get so wise, Obi-wan?

TINY

Clean living.

AGGIE

So why aren't you relaxing?

TINY

For me, this is relaxing. Seems to be about all I'm good for, anyway.

AGGIE

Okay, my turn to listen. What's the problem?

TINY

You don't need to...

AGGIE

Spill it, Tiny.

TINY stops what he's doing.

TINY

When Chief Anderson asked me to be on the team, I thought I'd be mixing it up with the bad guys, you know? Instead, I'm just what Jason called me - a truck driver. I realised today that wherever G-Force goes, I'm going to sit in the Phoenix and watch. I'll never throw a punch.

AGGIE

You don't know that.

TINY

We both know it. I might as well learn to knit.

AGGIE doesn't know what to say.

AGGIE

Well then, I could do with a new sweater.

TINY looks at her, then laughs.

TINY

Okay, I'm sorry. No more self-pity. Thanks, Aggie.

AGGIE

No problem. So what are you working on?

TINY

How's your quantum mechanics?

AGGIE

Try me.

TINY

All right. Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle - layman's terms, please.

AGGIE

Simple. You can't be certain of a particle's position and momentum at the same time.

TINY

That'll do. Now, Quantum Electrodynamics.

AGGIE

QED is the mathematical description of the interaction of electrically charged particles.



TINY

Very good. Now, some interpretations of QED say that light travels every possible path and the observer only sees the average of all these possible paths.

AGGIE

Or that some paths are non-physical. Light can travel faster than the speed of light to get there.

TINY

I may have to marry you. Now, my theory is that if we could understand and control these principles, we could make a physical object partially intangible for a period. Look at this.

He points to the model in the tunnel, and presses buttons. The model flickers, light and flame playing over the surface as the wind sweeps past. The prototype Fiery Phoenix.

TINY (CONT'D)

See? Particles flicker between mass and light.

AGGIE

The wave-particle duality.

TINY

Exactly. Imagine if we could harness that submolecular uncertainty or probability or however you want to describe it. We could potentially move solid objects through each other, or move at near light speed.

AGGIE

Wow. Tiny, this is way beyond anything I've heard of.

TINY

If only I could make it work.

AGGIE

You will.

TINY

What makes you so sure?

AGGIE

Because you're the most intelligent, centered man I've ever met. And you've got me to help you. Now, show me your calculations.

TINY chuckles and they get to work.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE -- ACCOMMODATION -- NIGHT

JASON is packing his duffel bag. KEYOP comes to the door.

KEYOP

Leaving.

JASON

Yes, I'm leaving. First thing tomorrow. And if you're smart, you will too.

KEYOP says nothing.

JASON (CONT'D)

Stop staring at me. I don't owe this place anything. Maybe it works for the boy scout or the princess but I don't do teams. I learned early that the only person you can rely on is yourself. That's the only thing my father taught me.

He realises what he's said and stops packing.

JASON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, kid. I know you'd do anything to get your father back.

JASON sits on the bed.

JASON (CONT'D)

You want to know something weird? I envy you. The way you feel about your dad... I never had that. When I was your age, all I wanted to do was get away from my father. You've lost your family, and I never had one.

KEYOP moves to JASON, looks at him with big puppy dog eyes, and puts his arms around his neck. JASON doesn't know how to react, then hugs him back. It's a good feeling. But in short order, JASON puts his emotional walls back up.

JASON (CONT'D)

Sorry, kid. But this isn't for me. I'll be gone in the morning. I'm not part of this... this...

KEYOP has walked to the door but stops to look back.

KEYOP

Family.

KEYOP exits. JASON thinks, then goes back to packing.

EXT. CENTRE NEPTUNE BEACH -- NIGHT

MARK is sitting watching the surf. AGGIE approaches and sits next to him.

AGGIE

It's past midnight. Why aren't you asleep?

MARK

Why aren't you?

AGGIE

I've spent the night with Tiny.

(off Mark's reaction)

No, I mean... we were experimenting.

(that's just as bad)

We were working on his Fiery Phoenix idea. Damn, I wish my skin wasn't so fair - it's so obvious when I blush.

MARK

It suits you. Did you make any progress?

AGGIE

I think so. Tiny's working on the Phoenix now. Have you made any progress?

MARK

On what?

AGGIE

On those questions zipping around in your mind. What did I do wrong? What if I hadn't split us up? What gives me the right to lead this team?

MARK

Is it that obvious?

AGGIE

Yes. And I spoke to Chief Anderson. Does he ever sleep?

MARK

I've never caught him. He's a robot.

AGGIE

Ha! Imagine that - a robot coordinating the team.

MARK

You're right. Dumb idea.

AGGIE

So. Tell me.

MARK

It just seems like I did everything wrong.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

I let Keyop get into the Stegosaur, then we got trapped in there. The Phoenix nearly got shot down. Jason nearly shot you. I had two team members brawling on the flight deck. And Spectra got away untouched.

AGGIE

You'll do it differently next time.

MARK

I don't know if there's going to be a next time.

(standing)

After a debacle like that, I have to question whether I should be on the team at all. And certainly not as commander.

AGGIE

(standing)

Does that mean I get the job?

(off his reaction)

Jason's gone. Keyop's too young. Tiny is great when he has time to think things through, but can he react fast enough in combat? That leaves me. A teenage cosmetics model who's never been in a real fight. Who would you pick as leader?

MARK doesn't have an answer.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

You're the only one who can do this, Mark. You just need to prove it to yourself.

MARK

After today, who would follow me?

AGGIE

I would.

She kisses him on the cheek and walks away. MARK watches her leave. Then turns thoughtfully towards the waves again.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE LAB -- NIGHT

The room is shadowy. We see someone putting on their battlesuit. Boots on. Gloves. Belt. Helmet. Cape. Movements sure and determined. This is a man who has made up his mind. He turns and steps forward and is suddenly illuminated by a beam of light. It's MARK. Reverse on his POV, and we see AGGIE standing in the now-open doorway. She's already suited up.

AGGIE

Ready when you are.

MARK

You're not coming. I'm doing this alone.

He brushes past her.

AGGIE

Whatever you say, commander.

She follows.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- NIGHT

MARK, with AGGIE in tow, approaches the Phoenix.

MARK

Aggie, I won't be responsible for getting you killed.

AGGIE

No, you won't. It's my choice.

MARK

(stopping, turning to her)

Are you sure you want to do this?

AGGIE

Positive.

Accepting, he gives her a smile and nod. They leap to the wing and then to the top hatch. KEYOP, in battlesuit, is waiting for them.

MARK

Keyop, what are you...

He stops. Looks at AGGIE. Looks back at KEYOP.

KEYOP

Father.

MARK

Let's go find him.

They enter.

INT. PHOENIX -- NIGHT

MARK issues instructions as they enter the flight deck.

MARK

Aggie, bring up location data on the Stegosaur while I go through preflight.

TINY (O.S.)

Already done.

He's sitting in the pilot seat.

TINY (CONT'D)

What, you think I'm going to let  
you fly my ship?

MARK grins. He's beginning to feel wanted.

MARK

Good to see you, Tiny.

TINY

You too, Mark.

JASON (O.S.)

Well, I still think you look  
ridiculous.

JASON has entered behind them.

MARK

I thought you were gone.

JASON

I like the car.

(looking at Keyop)

Some things are worth sticking  
around for.

MARK

Flood the chamber, Tiny. Aggie,  
where's the Stegosaur?

ANDERSON (O.S.)

China.

The voice has come from their battlesuit comm systems.  
MARK looks out the view port to see ANDERSON at an  
observation window, headset on.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

The Spectra assault vehicle has  
been stationary for some time now.  
It's likely they've reached their  
base. The coordinates and any  
other data we've been able to gather  
are in your system now.

MARK

Thank you, chief.

ANDERSON

Do us proud, G-Force.

EXT. PHOENIX -- NIGHT

The Phoenix exits the hangar.

INT. PHOENIX -- NIGHT

JASON is asleep. MARK taps him awake.

MARK

Time to wake up, Jason.

JASON

Are we there yet?

TINY

We'll be coming up on the coordinates in a few minutes.

JASON

Okay. So how are we going to play this?

MARK

The coordinates are on the coastline. The Phoenix will overfly the position and we'll glide in.

JASON

They'll spot us. We should make an underwater approach.

MARK

The Stegosaur will definitely see us if we approach from the ocean. If we make a high-altitude jump they may dismiss the Phoenix as an ordinary aircraft.

JASON isn't convinced.

MARK (CONT'D)

Our mission is observation and rescue. We aren't here to fight. Chief Anderson has notified the Chinese military. We gather information to feed to them when they arrive. We find Keyop's father and any other captives and ensure their safety.

TINY

Two minutes.

MARK

Aggie, last minute data?

AGGIE

It's an old industrial centre. Satellite imagery shows some recent construction. And we've got the inventory of what Spectra took from their raid. The military hardware was only a bonus. The warehouse was a storage centre for the country's supply of Vitalumis.

JASON

Of what?

TINY

Vitalumis. It's a compound that restores damaged ecosystem.

(MORE)

TINY (CONT'D)

But that doesn't make sense. ISO supplies it free of charge to any nation that asks. Who would want to steal it? One minute.

MARK

We'll figure it out later. Helmets on and prepare for jump. Tiny, find a spot to hide and relay messages. Be ready to come get us.

TINY

Big 10.

MARK

Remember team, this is a raid. Be invisible. With luck, they'll never know we were here.

INT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

A Spectra soldier is working a console in a control room.

RADAR SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Lord, I read a craft passing high above. Configuration matches the vessel that attacked our assault vehicle.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese, subtitled)

Track it. And bring the Subcommander to me.

EXT. PHOENIX -- MORNING

It's the grey before dawn. MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP exit the top hatch. On a signal from MARK, they leap from the Phoenix and fall like stones, wings wrapped around them.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Lord Zoltar.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese, subtitled)

The enemy craft that disrupted your raid is above us. Explain.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Impossible, lord. We were not followed, I swear!

ZOLTAR backhands SUBCOMMANDER, knocking him off his feet.



ZOLTAR

(Chinese, subtitled)

Then they must have tracked you somehow. When this situation is resolved I will ask again. You had better have an answer. This is your second failure. There will not be a third.

SUBCOMMANDER gets to his feet, bows and leaves.

ZOLTAR (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)

Troops to alert. We are about to have visitors.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- MORNING

The base is mostly low structures over a wide area. The one exception is a central tower. The Stegosaur lies with it's forequarters out of the water.

MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP glide to a rooftop. They remove the "lower bill" helmet masks, leaving the familiar battlesuit silhouette.

MARK

Keyop with me. Look around, don't be seen.

MARK and KEYOP enter through a skylight.

JASON

Any ideas?

AGGIE

I'd like to know what's in that tower.

JASON

Just what I was thinking.

They leap, gliding towards the tower.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- MORNING

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

There is a tracking signal somewhere on this ship. Find it!

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

How, sir?

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Idiot! Turn everything off, and find anything still transmitting. Do it now!

MECHA SOLDIER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Yes, sir!

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

MARK and KEYOP sneak through corridors, avoiding soldiers.  
 They find an open space, where a soldier is issuing orders.

MARK  
 Keyop?

KEYOP  
 (listening)  
 They see Phoenix. Know we are  
 here. Looking for us.

MARK  
 Damn. We'd better leave before  
 we're caught.

KEYOP  
 Scientists.

MARK  
 I'm sorry, Keyop. We don't have  
 time to find them.

KEYOP  
 No, here. This building. Two  
 level down.

MARK  
 Okay, then. Good work, Keyop.

KEYOP beams. The two of them start moving again.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- MORNING

JASON and AGGIE are on the rooftop of a long building  
 connected to the tower.

JASON  
 Now why would a tower have no  
 windows?

AGGIE  
 It could be a communications  
 broadcast point. But there are no  
 dishes at the top.

JASON  
 Well, we won't get in that way.  
 Let's have a look below.

AGGIE  
 Lead on.

They enter the building.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

MARK and KEYOP exit a stairwell. Then they duck back in, as a soldier escorting a scientist goes by. MARK quickly attacks and incapacitates the soldier.

SCIENTIST  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
What...

KEYOP  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Quiet. We are here to rescue you  
and the others. Where are they?

The SCIENTIST, startled, leads them to a door. MARK, dragging the unconscious soldier, searches him for a pass card, which he uses to open the door. They enter.

INT. SPECTRA LAB -- MORNING

MARK shuts the door behind them and drops the soldier. They are in a room filled with scientific equipment. Including the SCIENTIST who entered with them, there are four people in lab coats. They look at the newcomers with surprise.

KEYOP  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Father!

KEYOP leaps joyfully to a middle-aged Chinese man, hugging him.

DR.KEE  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Son? What are you doing here?

KEYOP is too happy to answer.

DR.KEE (CONT'D)  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
My son!

SCIENTIST  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
They are here to rescue us from  
Spectra!

DR.KEE  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
(to Mark)  
Is this true?

MARK  
English, doctor?

DR.KEE switches effortlessly to English. His speech is accented but fluent.

DR.KEE  
Who are you?

MARK

We're G-Force. ISO have sent us  
to bring you home.

DR.KEE

Praise be! How is my son here?

MARK

That's a story for another day,  
doctor. Let's go.

DR.KEE

Of course.

(to others)

Gather your things and destroy  
your work. We are leaving this  
evil place.

DR.KEE rummages around the bench and takes a small package  
out of a hidden container.

MARK

Doctor, we don't have much time.

DR.KEE

I am ready.

They leave.

INT. SPECTRA TOWER COMPLEX -- MORNING

JASON and AGGIE observe from a gantry. It's a warehouse-  
type space. There are piles of crates against the walls.  
Soldiers and technicians are loading crates onto a conveyor  
belt that feeds to the base of the tower in the next room.

JASON

(indicating a pile  
of crates)

There are the stolen military  
supplies. But what are they loading?

AGGIE

It looks like the Vitalumis stocks.

JASON

I wish we knew what they were doing  
with it.

AGGIE

Let's find out.

JASON

Whoa! We're supposed to be  
invisible, remember? We'll never  
sneak through that many people.

AGGIE

I thought you were the daring one?

JASON

Daring is not the same as suicidal.  
I'm not here to risk my neck.

AGGIE

Then sit tight. I'm going to create  
a distraction.

And she's off.

JASON

Damn, headstrong... This must be  
what it's like working with me.

AGGIE sneaks down to a lower level gantry. She is surprised by a door opening. The only hiding place is behind the door. Two soldiers enter. One takes up position where he is, the other walks past AGGIE, patrolling the gantry. She's trapped. As soon as the soldier reaches the other end of the gantry and turns around, she'll be seen.

JASON (CONT'D)

Oh, hell.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

MARK leads his group through the building. But their luck has run out - halfway down a corridor, they're surprised by a group of soldiers.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

There they are! Shoot them!

The soldiers open fire as the group retreats around the corner. KEYOP gets out his bola, and flings it around an exposed pipe. There is an explosion and steam from the pipe fills the corridor.

MARK

(to DR.KEE)

We have to get to the roof.

DR.KEE

The only stairs are back there.

MARK

Then we have a problem.

Before they can move, soldiers appear in front of them. Soldiers emerge from the steam behind them. They're trapped. Then ZOLTAR appears. Smirking.

MARK (CONT'D)

Oh, rats.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- MORNING

A soldier hands SUBCOMMANDER the locator beacon that MARK left aboard the Stegosaur.

SUBCOMMANDER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Meddling brats. I will destroy  
 you for this. Bring systems back  
 on line!

He drops the locator beacon on the floor and stamps on it  
 with his heel.

INT. PHOENIX -- MORNING

TINY  
 Mark, the locator on the Stegosaur  
 just went out. I think they know  
 you're there. Mark? Can you hear  
 me? Jason? Aggie? Keyop? Can  
 anyone hear me?

No reply.

TINY (CONT'D)  
 Damn. What are you going to do  
 now, Tiny?

INT. SPECTRA TOWER COMPLEX -- MORNING

AGGIE is crouched behind the door. The soldier is at the  
 end of the catwalk. He turns to patrol back towards her.  
 AGGIE prepares for the worst. But before he turns  
 completely around, his attention is drawn by JASON launching  
 himself into the middle of the open space.

JASON  
 YAAAAA!

Every eye in the room is on him as he lands, kicking a  
 soldier unconscious as he does so. AGGIE incapacitates  
 the soldier nearest her. Then she leaps silently to the  
 other end of the gantry and deals with the other soldier,  
 who doesn't see her coming until the last second.

JASON (CONT'D)  
 That's right, look at me! Look at  
 the big, bad birdman come to kick  
 your ass! Who wants me? Come on,  
 come and get some!

The soldiers, instead of engaging, draw weapons. JASON is  
 surrounded on all sides by armed soldiers. It's hopeless.  
 He steals a glance at AGGIE. She looks back in horror.

JASON (CONT'D)  
 Damn it.

JASON crouches, wings drawn around him, as every weapon in  
 the room opens fire on him. There is a few seconds of  
 gunfire, then silence. Everyone looks at the huddled  
 figure.

It moves. JASON pokes his head out from under his wings.

JASON (CONT'D)  
 Holy shit. This stuff actually  
 works. My wings are like a shield  
 of steel!

The soldiers shoulder their weapons again. The conveyor  
 belt explodes, blocking the entrance to the tower.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 What the hell?

A grenade lands at his feet. He looks up to see AGGIE on  
 the pile of military crates, two more grenades in hand.

AGGIE  
 Easter egg hunt!

She hurls the grenades.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Run!

The grenades explode and there is a hand-to-hand battle  
 between JASON, AGGIE and the remaining soldiers. When  
 it's over, there are no soldiers standing. JASON and AGGIE  
 look at each other.

JASON  
 Wow.

AGGIE  
 I know. Let's go.

She turns to go.

JASON  
 Aggie.

He called her by name? She looks at him.

JASON (CONT'D)  
 Thank you.

She grins at him.

AGGIE  
 (mock haughty)  
 Call me Princess.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

ZOLTAR  
 Who are you?

MARK  
 G-Force.

ZOLTAR

(snickering)

G-Force. Pathetic youngsters, hurling yourselves at the might of Spectra. If you knew anything of our true nature, you would cower in terror. We will take everything from you and your people will be dust on the wind. You come to rescue these drones? And who will rescue you?

An explosion rocks the building.

ZOLTAR (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)

Find out what is going on. And destroy them!

There is a second explosion. In the confusion, KEYOP opens a door and he and MARK hustle the scientists inside. MARK holds the door as the soldiers in the corridor outside try to break it down.

MARK

Out the window. Go!

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

What are those explosions?

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Systems still coming back, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Where is it coming from?

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

It's... oh, God.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

What?

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix circles the Spectra Base, firing missiles.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY is grim-faced and determined at the controls. An avenging angel.



INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- CONTINUOUS

KEYOP  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Hold on to me.

The two lighter scientists hold on to him and they leap from the window.

MARK  
Your turn, doctor.

DR.KEE and SCIENTIST clamber out the window. MARK leaps the length of the room and launches himself through the window. Soldiers burst in as DR.KEE and SCIENTIST grab MARK.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

MARK and his two passengers glide to the ground. MARK, KEYOP and the scientists run for cover. They look up at the Phoenix, which continues to rain destruction from above.

DR.KEE  
What is that thing?

MARK  
The best sight I've seen today,  
doctor.  
(into communicator)  
Ears on, Tiny?

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY  
Mark! I thought something had  
happened.

MARK (O.S.)  
It would have if you hadn't started  
blowing things up. Lock onto  
Keyop's locator and come get us.

TINY  
Big 10, commander.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

MARK  
Jason? Aggie?

JASON  
Turn around.

AGGIE and JASON are, indeed, right behind them.

AGGIE  
Are you all right?

MARK  
We're fine.

JASON

You think they noticed we were here?

MARK

(grinning)

Come on. Time to go.

The Phoenix hovers and lands.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

A different view of the Phoenix, through the Stegosaur's weapon sights.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Now I will destroy you.

An explosion rocks the Stegosaur.

SUBCOMMANDER (CONT'D)

That wasn't their craft. Who is firing at us?

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

The Chinese military has arrived and is pouring into the compound. A couple of tanks have started firing at the Stegosaur.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Blast! Where is lord Zoltar?

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

He has gone to the tower complex, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

The tower? He dares... Very well. If the mighty Zoltar is running, we shall do the same. Withdraw!

EXT. MECHA -- CONTINUOUS

The Stegosaur pulls back into the ocean.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

An APC pulls up beside the group. A Chinese colonel addresses them in accented but acceptable English.

COLONEL

You are G-Force?

MARK

We are.

COLONEL

Nice ship. We will take over from here. Where is Spectra commander?

Before anyone can answer, there is a low rumbling. The ground shakes. The tower falls to pieces, revealing a rocket taking off.

MARK

I would guess he's in there. Come on, team, let's bring him down.

AGGIE

No, Mark. That's not a terrestrial rocket, it's a space ship. The Phoenix isn't designed for vacuum.

MARK

Then we'll track him and catch him when he lands.

COLONEL

The battle is not over. I must go. Are these civilians with you?

The scientists exchange hurried glances.

DR.KEE

These three will stay, Colonel, and explain what occurred in this place. I must go with my son.

COLONEL

Very well. Goodbye.

MARK, JASON, AGGIE, KEYOP and DR.KEE head for the Phoenix and the three remaining scientists board the APC.

INT. PHOENIX -- MORNING

TINY

I'm glad you guys are okay.

MARK

Let's stay that way. Move us out of the danger zone, Tiny.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix starts away from the Spectra base, following a low flight path over the sea.

MARK

Aggie, what's that rocket up to?

AGGIE

It's left the atmosphere.

JASON

It's not coming down?

AGGIE

No. And it's not angling for orbit,  
either. It's headed straight out.

MARK

But why? Where else is there to  
go?

AGGIE

Transmission coming in.

MARK

On screen.

ZOLTAR appears on the monitor.

ZOLTAR

I regret I have not time to destroy  
you, G-Force. When I return, we  
will settle that account. In the  
meantime, thank you for the  
Vitalumis. It will prove most  
useful.

ZOLTAR laughs and the transmission ends.

AGGIE

I'm getting some strange radiation  
emissions from the rocket.

MARK

What's it doing?

EXT. SPECTRA ROCKET -- CONTINUOUS

There is a hint of elongation as the rocket winks out of  
existence.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

AGGIE

It's gone.

TINY

What do you mean gone?

AGGIE

I'm mean it's not there. It  
vanished.

JASON

It can't just vanish.

DR.KEE

It didn't. They have made a  
hyperspatial jump.

Beat.

JASON

A what?

DR.KEE

A leap through space to a far  
distant point through...

JASON

I know what it is! I also know  
it's impossible!

TINY

Doctor, unless you're involved in  
work I don't know about, there is  
no such technology.

DR.KEE

Not on Earth.

Beat.

AGGIE

Oh, no.

MARK

Doctor, are you sure?

DR.KEE

That is why they wanted the  
Vitalumis. Planet Spectra is a  
dying world. They have technologies  
we do not, but the reverse is also  
true. The Vitalumis will help  
arrest the decline of their  
ecosystem while they carry out the  
remainder of their plan.

JASON

Which is?

MARK

Invasion.

TINY

They're coming here.

AGGIE

We have to stop them.

JASON

How? We still don't know anything  
about them!

DR.KEE reaches into his pocket and produces the canister  
he recovered from the lab, giving it to MARK.

MARK

What's this, doctor?

DR.KEE

What did not reach you last time.  
Information about their biology,  
their technology and their planetary  
system. Co-ordinates,  
characteristics... everything.

MARK

You may have saved us all, doctor.

DR.KEE

Without G-Force, I would likely be dead now.

JASON

Well, they got away but so did we. I guess we can call that one even.

MARK

We'll be ready for them next time.

A klaxon goes off.

TINY

Collision alert!

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix has been coasting along above the waves but now the Stegosaur rises out of the water into its path. The Phoenix plows straight into the Stegosaur's limbs and is caught.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

MARK

Tiny!

TINY

Too late. We're caught. They're pulling us in.

JASON

Oh, this just keeps getting better.

AGGIE

What do we do, Mark?

MARK

Doctor, try to transmit your information to Centre Neptune. G-Force, prepare for combat.

TINY

At last.

MARK

Not you, Tiny.

TINY

Are you kidding me? We're about to get killed or shipped to another planet and you still don't want me to fight? What are you protecting me for?

MARK

I have a special job for you.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

MECHA SOLDIER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
The enemy craft is in the hold,  
sir.

SUBCOMMANDER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Good. Make for space. What are  
they doing?

On the monitor we can see MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP exiting the top hatch of the Phoenix.

MECHA SOLDIER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
They are engaging our forces in  
the hold, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
And the pilot?

MECHA SOLDIER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
I read a transmission from their  
craft, sir. He must still be  
aboard.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

Underneath the Phoenix, TINY emerges from a hatch to lurk in shadow. TINY sneaks away towards the stern of the Stegosaur. We see the remainder of G-Force in combat, which we now know is a diversionary tactic.

JASON  
You think he can do it?

MARK  
No question. He's just got to  
find the reactor.

INT. MECHA -- ENGINE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

TINY looks into the engine room. There are a handful of soldiers.

TINY  
Let's dance.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

AGGIE is laying out soldiers with her yo-yo. A soldier behind her is about to get the drop on her.

JASON  
Princess!

The warning gives AGGIE a chance to jump away. She lands near MARK.

MARK

Princess?

AGGIE

I'm starting to like it.

INT. MECHA -- ENGINE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

TINY, surrounded by unconscious soldiers, is tapping instructions into the computer.

TINY

Lock this, release that, and boom.  
Fireworks in about... two minutes,  
I'd say.

(to soldiers)

Don't get up. I can find the way  
out.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

KEYOP is leaping about in full combat mode when a hand grabs his ankle and throws him to the floor.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Remember me?

KEYOP

(Chinese, subtitled)

I remember.

They square off. They fight. KEYOP uses his acrobatic skills to bounce off the surroundings, raining blows from every direction. In short order, we see KEYOP standing over an unconscious opponent.

KEYOP (CONT'D)

For Grandfather.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Sir, I'm getting a danger signal  
from the reactor. Explosion  
imminent!

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Visual!

The monitor shows unconscious soldiers in the engine room.

SUBCOMMANDER (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)

Who did this?

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Look!



Another monitor shows TINY leaping into combat in the hold.

SUBCOMMANDER  
(Chinese, subtitled)

No!

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

TINY

Time to go!

MARK

I'll get the door!

MARK throws the sonic boomerang, which strikes the controls for the hold doors. As G-Force re-enter the Phoenix, the doors begin to open. Soldiers grab for handholds as wind tries to pull them outside.

INT. PHOENIX -- MOMENTS LATER

MARK

Okay, Tiny, get us out of here.

TINY

Gladly.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix fires her jets and begins to manoeuvre for the exit. Suddenly there is a huge explosion and the Stegosaur tilts. The Phoenix is thrown sideways into the far wall.

EXT. MECHA -- CONTINUOUS

The Stegosaur is at the edge of the atmosphere. Flame and smoke from the explosion pour out of the superstructure as gravity begins to pull it back to what will be a very bad end.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

JASON

You want me to drive?

TINY

That's their power gone. They're in free fall.

AGGIE

That means we are, too, Tiny.

TINY

I'm working on it!

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix moves shakily across the hold towards the exit. SUBCOMMANDER enters the hold and shouts over the noise.

SUBCOMMANDER  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Seal that exit!

Soldiers look at each other. Is he nuts? SUBCOMMANDER draws a gun and shoots somebody. The body is whipped away by the wind.

SUBCOMMANDER (CONT'D)  
 (Chinese, subtitled)  
 Do it!

A group of three soldiers throw themselves at the control panel. Two fail and are sucked outside. The third hangs precariously from the panel and manages to hit the control before he, too, is sucked outside. The huge door begins to close.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

MARK  
 Ah, Tiny?

TINY  
 I see it! You want to let me work here?

MARK  
 Okay, no problem.  
 (looking at the  
 closing door)  
 No problem.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

By twisting the Phoenix as nimbly as a parking car, TINY manages to squeeze the ship out the rapidly closing door.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY  
 We're out!

CRUNCH!

TINY (CONT'D)  
 Almost.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

One wingtip pod is caught in the door.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER  
 We die together.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY  
 The wingtip pod is stuck.

MARK

Can you get us loose?

TINY

Not without tearing the wing off.

KEYOP

Falling.

AGGIE

The water is coming up fast, Mark.

JASON

We'll have to jump for it.

MARK

We can't.

JASON

Sure we can. We can fly, remember?  
I'll even carry the doc.

AGGIE

Jason, when the Stegosaur hits the  
water, it's going to explode  
catastrophically.

JASON

How bad exactly is catastrophic?

AGGIE

We'll be incinerated.

TINY

Even if the Phoenix was freed right  
now, we might not have time to get  
clear.

Beat.

JASON

That's it, then.

KEYOP

(to Mark)

We die?

MARK

I'm sorry, Keyop.

Take a moment to drink in everybody's reactions to certain  
death.

MARK (CONT'D)

Thank you. I couldn't imagine a  
better team.

AGGIE

Oh, Mark.

TINY

We beat the bad guys.

JASON

You did okay, commander. I never thought this group could work together. You changed us.

KEYOP

Transformed.

The magic word.

MARK

That's it! Buckle in!

They leap to obey, even as the questions fly.

JASON

What?

MARK

Tiny. Prepare to transmute to Fiery Phoenix.

TINY

It's never been tested!

MARK

Tiny, you're a genius. You're never wrong.

AGGIE

This will work, Tiny.

JASON

And it's better than the alternative!

On TINY. A moment of hesitation. A deep breath.

TINY

Hang on to your lunch, people. This could get rough.

He presses buttons. He pushes the throttle forward.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The jets vomit flame as their power output red-lines. The water is coming up very fast now.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The passengers are roughed up as the Phoenix threatens to shake itself apart.

TINY

Come on, baby, come on...

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The jets are turning white hot in the foreground as the water gets closer in the background.

There is flame flickering over the Phoenix, just as we saw happen to the model in the lab.

Go to a VERY LONG SHOT as the Stegosaur, way off in the distance, hits the water. There is the mother of all explosions. For the longest time, we see only the fireball. Then the FIERY PHOENIX shoots out into open air, with a scream that sounds part twisted metal, part jet turbine and part bird of prey.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

It's like being inside a supersonic roller coaster that's also on fire. How can anyone live through this?

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Fiery Phoenix transforms slowly back to the familiar blue fuselage.

INT. PHOENIX -- MOMENTS LATER

The passengers slowly recover from the ordeal.

JASON

Let's not do that again.

AGGIE

I agree with Jason.

TINY

There's a first.

MARK

You saved us all, Tiny.

TINY

Yeah. Kinda cool, huh?

AGGIE

The coolest.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek.

JASON

You got some of that lip magic for me, Princess?

AGGIE

For an egotistical loner who can't wait to leave us in the lurch? Like hell.

(then)

But for a man who threw himself at a room full of gunmen to save my life...

She gives him a kiss on the cheek. He is nonplussed.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

Even if I did have to save your butt 10 seconds later.

They all laugh.

MARK

Keyop, is your father okay?

KEYOP

Asleep still. Okay.

MARK

Congratulations, G-Force. But let's not forget that Spectra is still out there. We'll be seeing them again. But for now, let's go home. Tiny?

TINY

Big 10.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix zooms for the horizon, taking our heroes back to Centre Neptune.

JASON (O.S.)

And maybe you should consider installing barf bags in this thing.

CREDITS

EXT. DEEP SPACE -- LATER

As CREDITS run, we dissolve through a series of shots in deep space, eventually arriving at a barren planet. ZOLTAR's rocket winks back into existence. A shuttle detaches from the rocket and arcs towards the planet.

INT. THRONE ROOM -- LATER

DISSOLVE to a large bare chamber. ZOLTAR enters and walks with echoing footsteps to the far end, where he kneels.

LUMINOUS ONE

Your mission was successful, Zoltar?

ZOLTAR

Yes, Oh Luminous One. We have the compound needed to restore our ecosystem.

LUMINOUS ONE

It will not suffice. Spectra must have the Earth to survive. Soon, very soon, you must return there.

ZOLTAR

It will be done, magnificence. They will fall before the might of Spectra.

LUMINOUS ONE

And this G-Force of whom I hear?

ZOLTAR

I will crush them without mercy.

THE END