CERBERUS

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

A gothic mansion. Devoid of life, leering beneath the radiance of a full moon. A breeze shuffles dozens of autumn leaves that lie freckled across the grass.

Birds fight for the right to a spot on a window seal -- a black woman (TANAKA) punches headfirst through the glass, a well-crafted, downward spiral...

She’s on the ground. An ancient BOOK in her hands, frayed with the tides of time. Sprints towards the towering gates surrounding the estate.

BOOM! The double doors to the mansion swing open, two COPS on her tail, standard issued .40’s drawn. They FIRE --

And she leaps, rocketing upward with an uncanny grace. Twenty feet of pure air WHOOSHING past her.

Until she’s on the other side. Bolts to the streets.

BIG COP slows for a breather.

    MACHO COP  
    C’mon, she’s getting away!

    BIG COP  
    Are you nuts? She’ll kill us!

    MACHO COP  
    So will he.

He didn’t think about that. They dart after her.

EXT. JJ’S - NIGHT

Racks are packed with strange gizmos and hybrid appliances. A GUY in a Lakers jersey puts the finishing polish on a glass case housing dozens of cellular phones.

In shuffles a MAN in a pullover. Too rogue to be friend, too cool to be foe, he makes everything look easy. Low-cut facial trims make him worth while. This is ALEX PORTER.

    LAKERS GUY  
    We’re closed, my man.

Alex flashes a badge.
ALEX
You’re under arrest.

Lakers guy pauses, bewildered.

LAKERS GUY
What for?

Alex reaches beneath his pullover -- towards his GUN.

Just as Lakers guy starts to shit his pants,

Alex’s hands move past the handle, lifts the pullover, revealing Alex’s Miami Heats basketball shirt.

ALEX
Wearing the wrong jersey.

Lakers guy sighs, annoyed.

LAKERS GUY
I thought I told you not to come down here harassing me on my job?

ALEX
JJ, chill out. I’m not here to bust you again.

Pulls forty dollar from his pockets.

ALEX
Just want my merchandise.

JJ (Lakers guy) retrieves a small package for Alex.

Hands it over to Alex. Alex rips the package open, slips out a cell phone. Great job.

JJ
There you go, your highness, spit-shined to perfection, entire call list transferred.

ALEX
Appreciate it.

Starts towards the door.

JJ
Hey! You ain’t that royal.

Holds out an expecting hand.
ALEX
Should’ve known.

Alex pulls forty bucks out of his wallet, hands it over. JJ notices Alex’s WEDDING RING.

JJ
Just can’t let go, can you? Don’t press too hard on those papers.

He bursts into a satisfied laughter.

In retaliation, Alex slides a finger along the jewelry case, producing a long streak on spotless glass. JJ gasps in horror.

ALEX
Don’t work too hard on that jewelry case.

Exits.

JJ
Hey! Get back here!
(sighs)
Cops.

Sprays. Wipes.

EXT. ALLEYWAY – NIGHT

A HOMELESS MAN spies from beneath a blanket of newspapers.

As Tanaka stumbles along a graffiti-covered wall. Her legs buckle. She tumbles against the brick.

Pain floods her conscious - a glass SHARD protrudes from a savagely punctured wound in her leg.

She yanks it out, fights the agony. Focuses a hypnotic glare on the injury.

The wound HEALS.

Relieved, she turns - the butt-end of a gun THWACKS her dead in her nose.

The two cops spring onto the scene. She’s trapped.

MACHO COP
Game over, sweetheart.

Frightened, homeless man hides.
EXT. STREET - SAME

Alex gaits down the sidewalk.

      MACHO COP (O.S.)
      We got her.

Alex presses his back to the brick. Peeks around the corner. Spots Macho cop as he pockets his radio.

INT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tanaka wipes away blood that has begun to trickle from her nose.

      BIG COP
      Don’t move!

... She moves.

We blink, and she back flips -- her foot catching big cop beneath the chin. And she lands --

Behind macho cop. One kick and he’s on his knees holding his groin.

Big cop’s back up. Tanaka frisbees the glass shard at him. It STABS in the center of his throat. He collapses.

Alex whips out his firearm.

      ALEX
      Freeze!

They stare each other down. The question is, who’s going to make the first move?

Mustering up his last strength, macho cop wraps a hand around his gun, directs the barrel towards Tanaka.

No surprise. Tanaka has already spotted him.

      ALEX
      Hands up.

Macho cop FIRES. Tanaka dodges. Startled, Alex returns FIRE. Macho cop takes a slug in the arm.

Tanaka makes use of the diversion, breaks for safety.

      ALEX
      (to Macho Cop)
      Sorry.
Alex gives chase.

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Tanaka spills onto the scene, shovels her way through crowds of pedestrians. Alex isn’t far behind.

She diverts towards a construction zone. Enters a manhole.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - SAME

Homeless man peeks from his hiding spot. Suddenly, he is drenched in WHITE LIGHT.

LIGHTS of a dark SUV driving up. Door opens. A figure in suede shoes steps out, moves towards the cops.

From the SUV, LEXINGTON watches. An enticing blonde with the appeal of an angel and the ambition of a demon.

Big cop gags. Figure lifts a foot, brings it down on the glass in his throat, then snatches the shard from his death wound.

Mortified, macho cop scrambles as fast as his arms will take him. He’s moved three feet when the figure is over him.

SHICK! Homeless man jumps at the sound of glass piercing a fresh flesh. Suddenly, his hiding place is snatched away.

By Lexington. Her gun aimed dead on. She smooches at him. FIRES.

INT. SEWER - CONTINUOUS

Alex descends a ladder. CLICKS ON a flashlight. A SPLASHING noise echoes out to him. Darts after it.

Light beams into darkness, sweeping off of moss covered walls and murky water. The sound of running water grows closer.

ANOTHER SECTION

Dead end. The outlet is barred off, allowing water to dump freely into the harbor.

A SCRAPING sound startles him. Swings his barrel towards the source.
A pair of RED GLOWING EYES break the darkness, a massive beast edges into view with a leering a mouth full of razor sharp teeth. Built like a wolf, but as massive as a bear, a gargantuan pair of wings spread from its back.

ALEX
That all you got?

He glares back. Pupils fade, replaced by a brilliant, white GLOW:

His body contorts, transforming into a BEAST just as massive. Skin fires off an armory glaze. Blades spike from its arms. A triplet of canine heads burgeon from his shoulders.

The beast howls – a supersonic BLAST erupts with such force, Alex is thrust against the wall. But he’s not out.

The two clash with undaunted hatred, until Alex exposes his back. Claws sink into his shoulder. Alex roars in agony, can’t break free.

A sharp pole grabs his attention. He lunges for it, drives the sharp end right INTO THE BEAST’S FOREARM.

The beast scowls, retreats into darkness.

Alex transforms back to his human shape. Squints at the torn flesh in his shoulder. What the hell is that?

Yanks out a TALON.

Sweeps the water in search of his firearm. Just then, Tanaka emerges from the darkness in pure shock.

TANAKA
Cerberus.

Alex rises from the waters, firearm in hand. FIRES.

Tanaka darts towards the outlet and KICKS right through the bars. Alex hustles over to the edge, peers down.

Nothing but the rushing water of the harbor below.

ALEX (V.O.)
I don’t get it.

INT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Macho cop is sprawled awkwardly, the glass shard deep in his skull. Alex stares down on the poor guy with a guilty look.
CSI workers move around him to get a good photo.

FEMALE (O.S.)
Amazing what can happen in ten minutes, isn’t it?

No time for politeness, no patience for leisure, the voice belongs to lead detective MIA CHASE.

ALEX
But he radioed for back up.

MIA
I’m gonna tell you again, we only got one call and that was from you.

CSI WORKER
Hey, Chase?

He approaches, hands over an evidence bag. A small, metallic BALL inside.

MIA
What is it?

CSI WORKER
Dunno. Found it in one of the big guy’s pockets over there.

Weird. Alex kneels, rummages through macho cop’s pockets. And there it is - a metallic ball.

Alex and Mia exchange questioning looks. Tosses the object to the worker.

ALEX
Bag it up.

The worker carries on.

MIA
Three dead bodies, Alex?

ALEX
Suspect on the run, Mia.

MIA
Your job is to protect and serve - that’s why I gave you a badge. Yet you thought it was a bright idea to up and leave your comrades behind. Tell me why you shouldn’t be suspended?
ALEX
See for yourself.

Alex signals her to follow him. Leads her a safe distance away, free of eavesdroppers.

ALEX
She left a souvenir.

Pulls out the talon. Mia isn’t convinced.

MIA
Doesn’t look like werewolf.

ALEX
Yeah? What about this?

Rolls up his sleeve, exposing the shoulder wound.

ALEX
And I’m thinking she got back to them before I could get back to them first.

MIA
She’s one of them?

ALEX
No telling -- not without a background check.

Mia shoots back a crazy looks, shakes her head, no.

MIA
You left your comrades behind, and didn’t even bother to call EMSA.

Alex counts up his mistakes.

ALEX
Thought it was three strikes and you’re out?

Starts to reply, but only a defeated sigh escapes her lips.

MIA
I hate you sometimes.

ALEX
Love you too.

Starts away.
MIA
Where you going now?

ALEX
While your start your research,
I’ll start mine.

MIA
Oh, that reminds me...
Pulls out a folded stack of papers. Hands it over.
Alex skims through the papers. Confused at first, then realization sinks in. Looks to Mia for confirmation.
She nods. Alex frowns.

ALEX
Dammit, JJ. You jinxed me.

EXT. SCHOOL – DAY
Anxious elementary students swarm the area after a busy day.

KINIA PORTER, a slender fourth grader, waits impatiently along the curve.

An SUV with tinted windows pulls up to her. Windows are down just enough to see the eyes of SOMEONE.

Kinia waves an accusing finger.

KINIA
You’re late, daddy.

Opens the door, climbs in with Alex.

ALEX
This car’s brand new. How’d you know I wasn’t a stranger?

KINIA
I saw your eyes.

ALEX
My eyes?

KINIA
Yup. I can see them through anything.

A grin beams across Alex’s face as he reveals a QUARTER.
KINIA
What’s that?

ALEX
Your birthday gift.

Kinia could be happier with a lump of coal.

ALEX
Okay, tell you what, I’ll keep the quarter...

CLAPS his hands together, rubs them around in a circle.

And when he opens them, a golden BRACELET has appeared. Engraved on it is the letter “K” in fancy, Old English font.

ALEX
And you can have this one. Happy birthday.

Impresses, Kinia takes the gift... frowns.

ALEX
What’s wrong?

KINIA
Well... it’s not cold, I can’t eat it, there’s no waffle cone --

ALEX
You know what? I want some ice cream. You want some ice cream?

KINIA
And pizza, please. We can eat in the car.

ALEX
We don’t eat nothing in this baby.

KINIA
Fine you have my permission take me out to eat instead.

ALEX
Deal.

Alex puts the SUV in gear, they drive away.
I./E. SUV – DAY

Kinia stares out the window, confused as the SUV drives up to the curb of a two-story house. One of those perfect houses.

KINIA
I thought I was going to your house?

ALEX
You were.

Kinia frowns.

KINIA
It’s work again, isn’t it?

His guilty expression says it all. Alex climbs out. Opens her door. The hurt in her eyes stabs him in the heart.

ALEX
Sorry.

KINIA
It’s okay, dad.

Kinia climbs out. They make their way towards the house, pressing onward against a chilling, autumn wind.

She RINGS the doorbell. From inside, the faint BARKING of a dog closes in on the door.

Alex backs off.

KINIA
She doesn’t bite, dad.

ALEX
Yeah, or drink from the toilet.

TUFFY, a pomeranian bursts through the doggy door and leaps into Kinia’s arms.

KINIA
Hey, Tuffy! Ya miss me, girl?

Tuffy barks in response.

ALEX
Hi, Tuffy --

She growls at him.
KINIA
Tuffy, stop that. Bad girl!

Front door opens. On the other side is NINA, a cat-eyed beauty with lush black hair.

NINA
Hey, sweetie. I didn’t know you were coming back home tonight.

KINIA
Me either. See ya, dad.

She trudges inside. Nina steps out onto the porch, shutting the door behind her.

NINA
Alex, what is going on?

ALEX
Remember those really important cases I used to take?

NINA
The ones that ruined our marriage? Yeah, what about them?

He scoffs with irritation.

ALEX
You know, at least I didn’t throw my ring in the trash -- Nina.

NINA
Alex, I have a board meeting tomorrow that I cannot be late to. Will you please un-absorb yourself from you for just one day?

ALEX
Un-absorb myself?

Alex pulls out the folded papers Mia gave him. Airs them out as if they were drenched.

ALEX
These look a little soaked to me. Divorce, Nina? What happened to separating for a while?
NINA
What the hell do you think divorce is?
(pauses)
Lord, I don’t even know why I get upset with you anymore. Just put a rush on those papers, it’s the least you could do.

Storms inside, the door slams shut behind her.

Alex starts to knock, but the sight of his wedding ring changes his mind. Jams his hands in his pockets

ALEX
Ouch!

When he pulls his hands out, he’s holding that talon again.

Just then the wind picks up, battering into him. But he lifts his countenance against it. Starts towards the SUV.

INT. HALLWAY - TIMELESS

Walls are puke green. Dim as a dungeon. VINCENT, a grungy prisoner with eleven years down and many to go. Escorted against his will by PRISON GUARDS.

VINCENT
You sonuvabitches! Turn me loose! Where are you taking me?

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Door GROANS open. The guards shove Vincent inside.

Alex sits at a small table in the center. Continuously shuffles a deck of cards. A folded piece of PAPER rests nearby.

ALEX
If it isn’t Satan himself. Man, you’re getting old.

VINCENT
Always gotta be a smart-ass.

ALEX
Don’t blame me. I wanted to be a magician. A push changed that forever, right?
VINCENT
Save it, Alex. You know I ain’t kill her.

ALEX
You’re right... you didn’t push her through that glass door, or cause her to bleed to death, what was I thinking?

Vincent opens his mouth to speak --

ALEX
But, I’m not here to make you feel like the scum you are. I need some information. In exchange, I show you my greatest magic trick of all...

Points to the paper on the table. Vincent unfolds the paper, skims quickly.

VINCENT
Horse shit. Freedom? You’ve rejected every plea I’ve sent in the past eleven years.

ALEX
You can make it twelve.

Vincent studies the paper. Studies Alex.

Alex stares back, not an ounce of bullshit in his eyes. Offers Vincent his seat. Vincent sits.

ALEX
Recently, I got stabbed with this.

He pulls the talon from his pocket, tosses it to Vincent.

ALEX
The ridges along the breaking point show that this thing was actually connected to its host when it snapped off in my shoulder.

VINCENT
Snapped off? But it’s a talon. Talons don’t grow on werewolves.

Pauses. Looks up. Alex awaits an explanation. Vincent tosses the talon back.
VINCENT
Go to hell. You’re not gonna leave me hanging again.

ALEX
I’m not asking for the stars, just the moon. For the world’s sake, I need to know if there’s more to this. Do it for mom.

VINCENT
Not everyone in the world was meant to be saved, Alex.

ALEX
That doesn’t change that there are still innocent people in it, Vincent.

VINCENT
I’m the Jack of all Spades. You can’t just walk in here and gimme a change of heart.

Alex puts the talon away. Draws a lighter from his pocket, sets the release form ablaze.

ALEX
Right. But I can change your future.

Tosses the crumbling remains onto floor, centimeters from Vincent’s shoe. Startled, Vincent stomps out the flame.

Alex exits.

VINCENT
You can’t treat me like this. I put the cards in your hands. Don’t forget that.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alex steps out, presses his back to the door. Reaches into his shirt and pulls a silver DOG TAG to the front. Like a lucky rabbits foot, he clings to it.

His cellular RINGS. The cop in him reacts.

ALEX
Homicide, this is Porter.
MIA (V.O.)
We got a lead. The last one to see our boys alive.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE – DAY

A zone once used for commercial activity, now a shabby field of disintegrating buildings.

A wrecking ball SMASHES a building to chunks of debris.

Overseeing demolition is DARIUS CORBET. Tall, a sleazy Adonis with a millionaire’s smile. He watches from a safe distance in a hard hat as the wrecking ball retracts.

A WORKER taps him on the shoulder. Darius looks past him. Spots Alex standing in the distance.

EXT. DARIUS’S TRAILER – LATER

The trailer serves as an office.

Darius fixes two cups of hot cocoa.

ALEX
She broke into your home and attacked you, but you don’t know why?

Darius hands Alex his cup of cocoa. Alex takes a sip.

DARIUS
Apparently, she thought I was someone else.

ALEX
Ex of yours?

DARIUS
Wouldn’t surprise me.

The door opens, Lexington enters, startled by Alex’s presence.

DARIUS
Hey, babe. This is Detective Porter, from the NYPD. He’s here for the, um... talk.

She frowns in confusion. But then --
LEXINGTON
Oh, your friends. Baby, I’m sorry.

Lexington goes to his side to console him.

ALEX
Friends?

LEXINGTON
Those cops that got killed were his friends. If they hadn’t have stopped by, oh God, who knows what would’ve happened?

Dazed a moment, she shakes off the thought of loosing Darius.

LEXINGTON
I hope you find the bastards that did this to them.

ALEX
Girlfriend?

Lexington flashes an engagement ring at him.

Figures. Alex looks away.

ALEX
I gotta get moving. Appreciate the info. I’ll update you if it leads to an arrest.

Alex stands. Almost instantly he stumbles, slightly fatigued. Darius catches him by the arm before he falls.

DARIUS
You awright, comrade?

Alex stabilizes himself - catching a glimpse of the tattoo on Darius’s arm.

Not a tattoo, a half-healed, jagged flesh wound.

THE SEWERS (FLASHBACK)

Alex in wolf form. The sharp pole in his grasp. Drives the sharp end right INTO THE BEAST’S FOREARM.

BACK TO SCENE

Alex is in total shock. Pulls away, whips out his gun almost instantly.
Suddenly, nausea begins to crawl across his face. His knees buckle, his body convulses. The firearm falls from his grip.

Lexington snatches it up, aims at Alex.

LEXINGTON
What’s wrong?

DARIUS
Neurotoxin. His muscles are cramping.

Alex shoots off a murderous glare. His pupils fade, eyes radiate that white GLOW.

LEXINGTON
He’s morphing.

DARIUS
Not quite.

Right on point. Glow flickers... that fades too. Alex fires a contorted, bewildered look at Darius.

DARIUS
Don’t worry. Your secret’s safe with me.

He lunges at Darius. Lexington strikes him over the head before he can lay a finger down. He drops flat, unconscious.

LEXINGTON
Warn me before you do something like that next time.

He pins her against the wall, their lips lock in an intense, lustful, primal kiss. Lexington finally frees her lips.

LEXINGTON
Wait. What about him?

Darius looks to Alex’s fallen body.

DARIUS
Take him down.

INT. CATACOMBS - TIMELESS

Alex slowly comes to. Bucks as a foul stench fills his nostrils. Examines his surroundings.

A TORCH LIT area. BONES are spattered into the walls, stuck between rock and dirt. Some human, others can’t be made out.
Mystified, he spins around – his heart nearly stops

A sprawled corpse stares up at him, eyes gouged, throat ripped to a pulp, face a freakish mix of human and canine.

Startled, Alex stumbles backwards... right over a rock stump. Plummets into a pit of bones.

Groans, rolls left: a canine corpse -- abdomen torn out. Rolls right: a human corpse -- decapitated.

He leaps up, captivated as he faces a grisly scene:

Dozens of slaughtered CORPSES rot away. Many are hybrids – canine and human, unsuccessfully merged into mangled freaks.

Alex scampers out of the pit. Bolts for a dark tunnel ahead. Three sets of ICE BLUE EYES break the darkness across the room. IT GROWLS.

CUT TO:

PITCH BLACK.

Feet SHUFFLING along. Finally, Alex bursts into light at the end of the tunnel. Pauses in amazement.

INT. TEMPLE – CONTINUOUS

Four stories of limestone wall greets him, draped with protective glass casings that house enormous papyrus scrolls.

Statues and ornaments adorn entrances and exits.

A stone access ramp leads upward to a pad with a semi-circle of WEREWOLF STATUES, each diverse in species.

ALEX
What is this place?

TANAKA (O.S.)
Some call it the underworld.

Startled, Alex locks eyes with Tanaka as she emerges from the same tunnel.

Slung around her neck are two single-strapped pouches, and a small dagger in a scabbard at her waist.

TANAKA
Most call it a temple.
ALEX
What are you doing here?

TANAKA
That depends on your answer: why did you chase me?

ALEX
That’s what cops do. Don’t play innocent.

TANAKA
Likewise.

ALEX
You don’t know anything about me.

Edges forward.

TANAKA
I know all about you. It’s why Darius captured you. He’s going to dissect you just like those carcasses. Use you to murder millions. I can’t let that happen.

Just steps away, she unsheathes the dagger. Alex takes a cautious step backwards.

Alex tackles forward, PASSES right through her HOLOGRAM BODY. He stares her down, bewildered.

She grins. Lunges at him, hologram FADES into thin air.

As the REAL TANAKA grabs Alex from behind, puts the dagger to his throat.

TANAKA
Sorry, but this is the only way --

A spine-chilling GROWL makes them both pause.

Those ICE BLUE eyes emerge from the darkness of a tunnel entrance. Followed by a living, breathing HYBRID. Dwarfed if compared a normal werewolf, three-headed like a cerberus.

Fur all over its body FLICKS up like needles on a porcupine. As a matter of fact they are NEEDLES.

The hybrid ROARS, pounces hard on top of Alex. Its jaws SNAP savagely, exposing endless rows of razor sharp teeth.

Tanaka grabs a torch off the wall, batters the hybrid. Scorched and pissed, it leaps at her.
She sidesteps, dragging the dagger right down the middle as it passes overhead, a perfect gutting it from head to tail before it can hit the ground.

She examines the remains.

TANAKA
Disgusting.

Just then, two mammoth sized WEREWOLVES emerge from the nearest tunnel and snatch her from behind.

Alex slips out of view behind a statue.

A second pair emerge. All are diverse in appearance. They converge on Tanaka.

TANAKA
No! Let me go!

Struggle is pointless. They drag her away into the darkness of the passageway.

Coast clear. Alex breaks for it. Something falls from his pocket. Pauses – picks up his NYPD BADGE.


INT. CAVERN – TIMELESS

Small, naturally formed by years of erosion. But lavish in appearance, with natural gold and silver banisters, and even walls. A makeshift stairway of jagged rock flare away from the outlet to a lower level.

LOWER LEVEL

Lexington stands near the stairway, Darius ahead of her.

Before them hovers the COUNCIL ELDERS, six figures cloaked in hooded robes that hide all traces of skin. Each face is a secret shrouded in the darkness of the hood -- names like SARYA, AEOUL, and CIMITRI.

JECIMOL, the current werewolf overlord, stands at the head, a bit ticked off.

JECIMOL
Our survival depends on your ability to follow orders.

DARIUS
This ain’t a walk in the park.
JECIMOL
As long as the ancient ones walk, the cerberus gene has not been destroyed.

DARIUS
You can’t catch a fish with an empty hook. You bait it, and wait for a bite.

In enter the four werewolves, Tanaka still captive. They revert to human form.

In following order they are: KORB, TOOTHPIK, JANNENSEN, and ERGO.

The council looks on.

DARIUS
What’d I tell ya? Hooked.

UPPER LEVEL
Alex enters, creeps forward. Spies over a banister of rock.

LOWER LEVEL
DARIUS
Blind her.

Toothpik pulls out a set of dark goggles. Tanaka squirms in her captors arms. Even as her eyes begin to GLOW a dark, JUNGLE GREEN, it’s pointless. Goggles slide over the glow.

TANAKA
Get off of me!

DARIUS
Councilors, you’re looking at the very last of the ancients.

JECIMOL
(to others)
Bravo, Darius. Maybe we were wrong about you. Shall we still tell him?

The others nod in agreement.

DARIUS
What?
JECIMOL
No doubt at times we question your effectiveness and your impudence -- but your persistence is something else. It makes you elite. For this reason we’ve decided to choose you for induction. A ceremony will be held in your honor.

The cavern fades to a shocked silence.

DARIUS
What about the Alpha wolves?

JECIMOL
Their new commander stands behind you.

Lexington grins, after all, she is behind him.

JECIMOL
By the seventh moon, you will sit with us.

DARIUS
Appreciate the offer. Unfortunately, with good news comes more bad news. In pursuit the ancient one, I ran into something a lot more dangerous ... a pure bred cerberus.

The council exchange stares. Murmurs rise amongst them.

DARIUS
And I believe Tanaka was searching for it when she was discovered.

JECIMOL
Is this true, Tanaka?

Not a word. Lexington grabs her by the jaw, forces her to stare forward.

LEXINGTON
He asked you a question.

No response. Lexington slaps her hard. Tanaka recoils, but Jannensen hold her back.

KORB
Aww, don’t act like that, ma. Hows about a kiss to make it better?
He smooches at her. She spits in his eye.

**KORB**
You little shit!

Toothpik and Ergo chuckle, nab him by the collar before he can strangle her.

**LEXINGTON**
Stop fooling around, Korb.

**DARIUS**
I believe the cerberus I encountered has lineage. With your permission, I’d like to bring the lineage to you personally.

**ALEX**
(to himself)
Another cerberus?

The councilors group for brief discussion. Finally, all nod in approval.

**JECIMOL**
Have it ready by time of the ceremony.
(ref: Tanaka)
And get rid of her.

Darius nods.

Jecimol dissolves into thin air, his image seeping away with the rest of the Council’s hologram images into a...

**TRANSMITTER** - a black cube with a green button, a red button, and a LCD screen where the lock should be.

**KORB**
Well, you heard the boss.

Korb whips out a switchblade. Grabs Tanaka by the throat.

**DARIUS**
Not yet. I still need that location.

**TANAKA**
Over my dead body.

**DARIUS**
What about his?

Tanaka stares back in confusion.
DARIUS
I know you came to save him. That’s why I used him as bait. Who do you think let you in here? Who let you free him? He can’t escape me. I will find him, and I will kill him. Unless, you give me their location now.

Tanaka looks off. No choice.

TANAKA
...The Straights. They’re in the Straights.

Darius grins.

DARIUS
Great... now, kill her.

Suddenly - Alex leaps into action. Our villains can only watch in surprise.

Tanaka moves - an elbow plants into Jannensen’s stomach, back of fist snaps up at Jannensen’s nose. She clobbers Korb with a swift kick, who stumbles into Toothpik.

Alex clobbers Ergo in two swings. He staggers into Lexington, who knocks over Darius.

Alex and Tanaka escape to the upper level.

DARIUS
Kill ‘em.

Eyes GLOW RED, and the pack transforms.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Alex and Tanaka bolt towards the SUV.

TANAKA
You’re crazy for coming back.

ALEX
You’re right - next time, I’ll watch.

Ghastly ROARS... above them.

Jannensen and Ergo soar out of the construction site like bats out of a Hell.
Alex UNLOCKS the doors, hops in. Tanaka is almost at the passenger side door when --

They SWOOP down at her, claws RAKING through the seams of her shirt, and into flesh. Despite pain, Tanaka hops in.

Alex keys the ignition. The SUV ROARS to life.

As Toothpik SMASH-LANDS on the roof of the vehicle.

Alex STOMPS the gas. The vehicle SCREECHES away into the night, hurling Toothpik from the rooftop.

I./E. SUV - CONTINUOUS

Tanaka nurses her wound.

ALEX
You’re bleeding!

TANAKA
I see that.

ALEX
No, on my new seats!

TANAKA
("asshole")
I’ll lean out the window.

Alex hits a button. Tanaka’s window rolls down.

TANAKA
Very funny.
(looking past Alex)
Speed up.

Alex looks left. To his horror, Korb gallops perfectly next to his window --

THE SPEEDOMETER: 60, 65, 70...

Korb never misses a beat of speed. Lunges at them. Alex swerves right.

Korb misses, CRASHES into a dumpster.

TANAKA
Oh, no.

Alex looks ahead with her. His face turns to stone.
Lexington shoulders a crane repeatedly, two rams away from toppling the machine.

TANAKA
Think we can make it?

Alex STOMPS the gas pedal. The two are thrust back against their seats.

Lexington rams it a final time. And the crane tips over...

The SUV hammers forward.

They zoom by. IMPACT – as the crane smashes into the street. Just missing them. Alex hits a sharp left at the corner.

ALEX
Those holograms, what were they?

TANAKA
Council of the Elite, supreme heads of every werewolf legion.

ALEX
But you were a hologram too.

TANAKA
I hijacked a transmitter. They carry nearly the same components used to hot-wire a vehicle, if you’ve ever done that before.

ALEX
Got rid of that hobby when I became a cop.

TANAKA
Listen to me, he said he going after another cerberus, who is it?

ALEX
You tell me.

TANAKA
This is serious. He mentioned linage. Got any friends? Family?

ALEX
Kinia... shit.

Alex STOMPS the gas.
EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The SUV SCREECHES to a halt right in front of Nina’s house.

ALEX
Stay here.

Alex opens the glove compartment, grabs the handgun inside.
Leaps from the vehicle. Pauses, staggered by what lies before him.
Smoke seeps from a cracked open front door. The steady rhythm of a smoke detector SOUNDS out to him. He rushes in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Smoke chokes him at each turn.

ALEX
Nina! Kinia!

CLATTERING noises in the kitchen. Darts towards it.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Nina SPRAYS down a crispy turkey with a fire extinguisher.

ALEX
Nina!
She gasps, startled.

NINA
Alex!
Spots the gun in his hand.

NINA
Alex?
He grabs her by the arm, drags her towards the living room.

ALEX
We have to get outta here.

NINA
Oh, God, Alex? No, wait!
INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She resists, but he drags her onward.

NINA
I’m sorry! Please!

Alex pauses.

ALEX
What are you talking about?

NINA
I’m sorry about the divorce, I promise. Just put the gun down.

ALEX
Nina --

He waves the gun freely. Nina shrieks, snatches her arm back. Runs to the closet near the door.

Pulls out a bat.

ALEX
Whoa! Nina, stop!

NINA
Take me out to the woods and shoot me, huh? You’re not putting me on Unsolved Mysteries!

ALEX
That don’t even come on no more!

She swings with like a batting Yankees. SHATTERS a vase. Another swing. A lamp goes sailing into a wall.

ALEX
Nina, I’m not here to murder you, I’m here to save you!

KINIA (O.S.)
Mom? Dad?

Kinia is midway down the stairs.

KINIA
What are you doing?

NINA
Go back to sleep, baby.

Kinia notices the smoke in the air.
KINIA
Is the house on fire?

A CLAW SMASHES through a living room window. Korb peeks in.

Nina and Kinia SCREAM. Alex FIRES.

Bullets SEAR into his flesh. Korb retreats.

ALEX
Up the stairs, now. Go!

The trio book up the stairs.

INT. KINIA’S BEDROOM – CONTINUOUS

They enter. Alex BOLTS the door.

NINA
What the hell was that?

Alex peers out the window. A huge tree close by. Across the street, the SUV.

He frowns. The only way out is down.

NINA
Alex, speak to me.

BOOM! The door downstairs bursts open.

No more time to think. He kicks through the window, sprinkling glass fibers everywhere.

ALEX
Go down the tree.

NINA
But I’m afraid of heights!

ALEX
Nina!

NINA
Alright, I’m going!

She scrambles out onto the roof, starts down the tree.

NINA
Don’t look... don’t look... don’t look...
Alex climbs out behind her. Reaches for Kinia. She climbs into his arms.

THUD – THUD – THUD – the wolves hustle up the staircase.

FRONT YARD

Nina misses a footing, and slips to the ground. Safely. Sighs in relief.

ON THE ROOF

Lexington RAMS the door off its hinges.

Just as Alex jumps.

FRONT YARD

Nina shrieks, rolls out the way just in time. They land safely. Nina is, baffled by the impossible – no broken legs.

NINA

How --

ALEX

I’ll explain later, let’s go!

They break towards the SUV. Climb in.

I/E. SUV – CONTINUOUS

TANAKA

Welcome back.

ALEX

Where were you?

TANAKA

You said stay here.

ALEX

So simple.

Alex STARTS the ENGINE. Lurches out into the street.

Tanaka pats her hands all along Alex’s body.

ALEX

What are you doing?

She’s already found what she was looking for. Pulls a small, metal BALL from one of his pockets. Rolls down the window, tosses it.
TANAKA
Trackers. They use it to follow you.

Nina is loosing her marbles in the backseat.

TANAKA
Who's the quack?

ALEX
She's not a quack, she's my wife...
sort of. Kinia, you okay?

KINIA
No --

Something RAMS into the SUV. Alex loses control of the wheel. When he regains it --

Looks left: a dark SUV drives up, Jannensen behind the wheel.

Looks right: a dark SUV drives up, Toothpik behind the wheel.

Jannensen signals to Toothpik. Toothpik grins.

Alex curses under his breath.

Together, the villains RAM into either side of Alex’s SUV. A RAIN OF SPARKS flares up between the opposing vehicles. Steel GRINDING against steel as Alex’s SUV is T-boned.

Tanaka fishes a 9MM from her pouch. Wheels it towards Jannensen, FIRES.

Multiple slugs find their mark. Jannensen swerves away.

Toothpik whips out his GUN.

Alex RAMS into him before he can take aim. Toothpik nearly SKIDS off track.

Alex hits a hard left.

ALLEYWAY

Jannensen rejoins the chase. Toothpik closes in, FIRES.

The back windshield SHATTERS. Nina and Kinia shriek.

Alex swerves, strays too close to a dumpster. BOOM! A rear tire blows as it slices against metal.

The tire WITHERS to a SPARKING RIM.
Alex jerks the vehicle left, back right, loosing control.

    TANAKA
    Open the sunroof.

    ALEX
    Why, so you can throw your pouch at them?

Tanaka opens one of the pouches. DYNAMITE STICKS inside.

    ALEX
    Necessities, huh?

Alex hits a button. Sunroof OPENS. She rises. Throws the pouch.

It lands on the hood of Toothpik’s SUV.

Tanaka FIRES --

IMPACT. She ducks inside just in time, FIRE sweep across the roof.

The explosion rips through Toothpik’s body. A TSUNAMI OF FLAMES, engulf the air. His SUV BLOWS onto its side.

Jannensen breaks too late, SLAMS hard into the remains.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Alex’s battered SUV shoots from the mouth of the alley, SKIDS to a halt in front of a large factory.

Alex leaps out. Starts opening doors.

    TANAKA
    What are you doing?

    ALEX
    Ever got far on three tires? C’mon.

They climb out.

INT. FACTORY - NIGHT

Tentacle-like wires snake their way into a variety of machines. Mechanisms pump away like ventricles.

A scattered overnight CREW fill crates with packaged chocolate.
Our heroes enter. Crew workers pause, alert.

NINA
Someone needs tell me what those things were.

TANAKA
Werewolves.

KINIA
Werewolves!

ALEX
Don’t. I don’t want them worrying.

TANAKA
Like they didn’t see them.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey --

A SECURITY GUARD approaches. Spots Tanaka’s gun. Startled, both reach for their firearm.

GUARD
Drop it.

TANAKA
You first.

Argument ensues, neither will give in.

For a brief moment, their voices become muted to Alex -- he zeroes in on rapid, cacophony MOVEMENT outside. It’s coming straight towards them.

GUARD
Last chance, lady.

ALEX
Shh!

Beat. Now, Tanaka hears it too.

NINA
I don’t hear anything.

TANAKA
Alex, get them out of here.

Alex grabs Nina and Kinia by hand, drags them away. Tanaka goes another.
GUARD

Hey, get back here --

BOOM! The wall shatters. Dust debris chokes the air. As the haze clears, a massive silhouette takes form.

Darius! He ROARS – at his command, Darius’s pack storm in from behind him, and unleash a hellish onslaught. The guard are crew are butchered mercilessly.

A MAZE OF CRATES

Alex leads the way.

NINA

Why are they after you?

ALEX

(ref: Kinia)

They’re after her.

NINA/KINIA

What?/ Me?

They startle a frightened CREW WORKER out of his hiding place.

CREW WORKER

Get away from me!

ALEX

(flashing badge)

Wait, we’re human. Just tell us how to get outta here.

CREW WORKER

This way.

He pauses after only one step.

Ergo is waiting at the exit they were headed for.

TANAKA (O.S.)

Alex!

She calls down to him from the second floor.

TANAKA

Go left, now!

The trio darts left. Ergo darts after them.

Crew worker turns tail -- slams right into Korb. Korb attacks, MAULS him like a fresh steak.
Go right!
They cut right. Ergo is just corners behind.

Left!
Another sharp turn. Dead end!

Other left!
They cut back across the maze just as Ergo howls. Crates shatter behind them.

The trio reach a metal ladder leading up to Tanaka. Nina and Kinia climb first.

Ergo spots them. Thrashes forward. Tanaka sees they’ll never make it. Opens fires.

Bullets sizzle into Ergo’s flesh like hot coal in water. His insides literally begin to melt. But he staggers onward.

Until Tanaka’s eyes glow a dark, jungle green.

Ergo stares, shudders at first glance.

Tanaka squints harder. Eyes brighten intensely.

Ergo begins to seize violently, his primal, agonized wails convert with him as he transforms back to human against his will.

Halfway through transformation, he stumbles backwards, slipping into a mixer.

Shrieks one last time as his body is ripped apart by sickle-shaped mixing blades.

On the second floor
The four cross onto a catwalk.

How’d you do that?

Tanaka spots an escape route.

I’ll tell you when we’re safe.
Those crates lead to the skylight.
We can make it to the roof.
ALEX
Too risky.

Behind him, CLAWS latch onto the railing from below, Jannensen pulls herself up.

TANAKA
Get down!

He ducks. Tanaka FIRES, Jannensen is pumped with hot lead. She looses grip, plummets to the ground.

TANAKA
Go, I’ll cover you.

NINA
She goes first.

ALEX
(to Kinia)
Hold on to me.

She secures her arms around his neck. Alex crosses over the railing, and begins to scale the crates.

Sets Kinia down, leaps across the gap to a separate mountain of crates.

ALEX
Come on.

Kinia is petrified, shakes her head, no.

ALEX
I won’t let you fall.

Korb spots them. HOWLS. BOOM! Crates shatter --

Including Kinia’s. She is tossed astray, tumbles towards the ground.

NINA
No!

Alex dives after her. In mid-air, he slips his arms around her.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR

They crash-land in a huge pile of packaged chocolate.

Kinia stands. Shrieks as Darius snatches her off her feet.
NINA

Kinia!

She bolts off the catwalk.

ALEX

Attacks Darius, but he’s no match against the beast. Darius backhands Alex hard into a forklift.

Alex transforms.

Nina steps off the ladder, pauses. Doesn’t know whether to be horrified, or amazed.

Alex charges at Darius.

The fur on Darius’s body stands up - NEEDLES, just like the hybrid.

He RAMS Darius so hard, he topples. Looses grip of Kinia in the process.

She SLAMS into a vinyl gate, slumps to the floor, unconscious.

Alex tries to stand, but pain won’t let him. Dozens of needles are pricked all over his upper torso. Staggers. Collapses. Reverts to human.

NINA

Oh, my God --

Jannensen leaps into her path. Nina retreats, but Jannensen is quicker. She lunges, CLAMPS a leg in her jaws.

Nina shrieks, passes out.

ALEX

No!

Alex starts after her, but can’t get balance. Tumbles over. Darius towers over him.

More needles FLICK up... SIRENS of law enforcements begin to WAIL in the distance.

The rest of the transforms back to human.

KORB

The calvary! Let’s get outta here!

LEXINGTON

Darius, let’s go!
She leads the pack out the gap in the factory wall.

With no choice, Darius retracts his needles. In a last ditch effort, he scrambles over to Kinia’s body, throws her across his shoulder. Escapes through the gap.

Alex curses, scrambles after him on legs of jelly.

But Darius is already in the air. Soaring away into the night with Kinia in his possession.

Something gleams in the streetlight nearby. Alex picks it up. Kinia’s bracelet. Alex looks on, shattered.

Behind him, someone moans. Alex spins around.

The moaning is coming from a semi-conscious Nina. A glint of relief spreads Alex’s face.

MIA (V.O.)
I am so sick of your messes.

INT. MIA’S OFFICE – NIGHT

Mia sorts through files on her desk and talks on her office phone.

INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING ROOM - SAME

Alex paces back and forth. Tanaka recuperates nearby.

INTERCUT – TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

MIA
Fortunately, you scared the bejeezes out of anyone who could ID you.

ALEX
Darius has my daughter.

MIA
What? How?

ALEX
Long story. Right now, I need you to try and dig up her location.

MIA
Alex, cats don’t really have nine lives.
ALEX
You’re the only one I know.

MIA
Do you know what limits I go to, to get what I need?

Beat.

ALEX
You lost a child before, and know what kind of hell it’s like. Please, help me so I don’t have to.

Mia looks down.

PICTURE ON HER DESK: Mia. And her son.

Shuts her eyes in remorse. Sighs.

MIA
I’ll look into it.

END INTERCUT

ALEX
Thanks. I owe you one.

MIA (V.O.)
Multiply that by a million.

He pockets the phone. He still has Kinia’s bracelet in his hand. Shakes his head at it, in regret.

TANAKA
Don’t look so gloomy.

ALEX
Go home.

TANAKA
Excuse me?

ALEX
You saved me, I saved you. We’re done.

TANAKA
You’re not gonna dive into a pool without a life jacket, are you? I can help you.

ALEX
Like you have so far?
No comeback. Alex turns to leave.

    TANAKA
    What if you could create moonlight?

Alex pauses.

    ALEX
    What?

    TANAKA
    I’m talking about reverse transformation, what I did to Darius’s goon back at the factory. To truly know what I’m talking about, you must first understand what makes us transform --

    ALEX
    I don’t have time for a quiz --

    TANAKA
    Gravitational pull, Alex. In ancient times, the moon was a lot closer to the earth. So close that its pull tugged the atoms in our body like it does tides in the ocean, sending us from human to beast in an instance. Over the last 4.5 billion years, the moon has moved further and further away, leaving all werewolves unbound. My species has the ability to create just enough moonlight to get these atoms moving. And that’s not even the tip of the iceberg.

Alex can’t hide it - he’s hooked.

    TANAKA
    How about that life jacket?

INT. DARIUS’S ROOM - NIGHT

Could be mistaken for a luxury suite. Embellished with thousand dollar rugs and high-priced furniture.

Steam rises from the bathroom, the product of running water from an already warmed up shower.

Across from it, Darius and Lexington are both naked, save the towels wrapped around their bodies.
A nasty, sickle shaped SCAR licked across his left side, 
Darius is face down in bed while Lexington gives him massage so good, even she’s on the verge of a climax.

LEXINGTON
I should’ve become a masseuse – I’m a lot better with my hands.

DARIUS
Lips too.

She reaches around him to an open metal case, grabs a GUN, retrofitted with a load-able syringe chamber and a sharp, silencer-like fitting over the barrel.

Grabs a syringe barrel filled with YELLOW LIQUID, loads the chamber.

DARIUS
Hate this part.

LEXINGTON
Don’t move.

Stabs the fitting into Darius’s shoulder, pulls the trigger. Liquid PUMPS instantly into his flesh.

Darius winces, does his best to repress a painful seizure. Eyes flash brilliant GLOWS – RED, WHITE, GREEN, BLUE.

LEXINGTON
Fight it, baby.

Suddenly, the seizure stops. Pain and all.

DARIUS
Move.

Lexington moves aside. Darius stands.

LEXINGTON
Where are you going?

DARIUS
Back to work.

Lexington drops the towel, kicks it to the side. Wraps her arms around his neck.

LEXINGTON
How ‘bout you call in sick?

Darius fires off a surprised stare. Chuckles. Keeps moving.
Rejected, she grabs her towel, wraps it around her body. Storms towards the bathroom.

LEXINGTON
You and this damn operation --

Darius catches her by the arm.

DARIUS
Think I enjoy being cursed? Or, maybe taking medication every night? Some nights, I can’t even find all the fucking ingredients.

LEXINGTON
Don’t shift gears on me, Darius.

DARIUS
I saved their future, and they destroyed mine. This is a war, whether you choose to believe or not.

The two hold a gaze, studying the other carefully.

LEXINGTON
Then, I’ll go with you to the end.

Lexington snatches her arm back. Enters the bathroom.

A KNOCK at the master door. Darius answers. It’s Mia. First thing she notices is his scar.

MIA
Oh, my God. How did you get that?

Se reaches out to touch. Darius pulls away.

DARIUS
What do you want?

MIA
Got your message. Where’s it gonna be?

INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM 532 - NIGHT

Tanaka watches as Alex unravels bandages on Nina’s leg, revealing several serrated markings that have nearly healed.

NINA
Is that why you pulled off that jump from the roof?
ALEX
Some powers extend beyond their natural form. Most werewolves can leap from a building as long as a football field, and survive.

NINA
How long until I change?

TANAKA
As soon as it’s healed.

Nina gazes out the window. A full moon.

NINA
I thought werewolves changed under the first full moon?

Tanaka starts to reply, Alex puts up a hand to stop her.

ALEX
Please don’t give that speech again.

NINA
So, when were you going to tell me?

ALEX
Nina, let’s not.

NINA
You’re right. Instead, let’s figure out how you’re going to get my daughter back.

ALEX
I didn’t know you could get yourself pregnant.

Tanaka chuckles.

TANAKA
Cute. Just like children.

Alex shoots her an annoyed look.

ALEX
Got a family of your own you can go bother?

Tanaka pauses. Painful memories flood her mind.
TANAKA
My family was executed many years ago.

Alex locks eyes with her, but it’s too late to take back what was said.

TANAKA
You and I appear to be all that’s left.

Alex is totally clueless. Looks to Nina, same thing.

ALEX
You lost me.

TANAKA
You don’t know your own history? (off his look) We’re cousins.

Alex and Nina exchange looks.

TANAKA
Darwin’s Theory of Evolution is a held notion that all life has descended from a common ancestor, related through natural selection. In essence, all creatures evolve... even werewolves. Consider yourself my descendant.

NINA
I’m good to sleep on that.

Rolls over, throws the blankets over head.

ALEX
Cousins? Loch Ness Monster tell you that?

From her second pouch, she pulls out an ancient BOOK, frayed with the tides of time.

TANAKA
This is the Book of Oriox, the sacred text written by Oriox himself, first of the elite. Centuries old, only two pages are missing. Darius captured me in the process of stealing it. I escaped, and ran into you.
ALEX
You stole his Bible? No wonder he wants you dead.

TANAKA
I had to confirm that I was correct. That I had discovered the Council’s biggest secret... you.

The words hit Alex like a sludge hammer.

TANAKA
When the elite evolved into their many diverse forms, they tried to obliterate the ancients. Sadly to say, they were successful, but instead of pure extinction, some of the bloodline evolved into what you are today. To make it more complex, there are not one, but two carriers of the cerberus gene, Pure breeds, and off-breeds.

ALEX
Your eyes do that.

TANAKA
Darius injected me with the hybrid gene, so it appears that way. Perhaps his aim as to make me a decoy in order to get permission from the Council to hunt your daughter, without drawing suspicion to himself. I’m marked because they think I carry the cerberus gene. While my glow is off balance, but I still retain all of my original abilities as an ancient, except morph.

Alex stares back with a solemn face. Beginning to believe. Alex’s cellular RINGS. Answers.

ALEX
Homicide.
(pauses)
Thanks, Mia. We’ll be there.

TANAKA
Where?

Puts phone away.
ALEX
Got a dress?

EXT. DARIUS’S MANSION – NIGHT

The mansion we saw earlier, but in all its glory, smothered in party decorations.

A banner hanging from gate to gate reads: 57TH ANNUAL CITY BALL.

The city’s finest - and richest - CIVILIANS arrive in the finest of vehicles.

INT. DARIUS’S MANSION, BALLROOM – NIGHT

Bodies scurry about. Despite the hushed atmosphere, everyone is having a blast.

Tanaka sits at a mini-bar, ER back to us, a glass of wine in her hand.

She wears a peculiar BRACELET. Taps an EARRING, puts the bracelet to her lips.

TANAKA
Almost there?

Ignorant to all, Alex moves towards a double door behind a beautiful fountain. He dons a black tuxedo. Speaks into a faceless WATCH on his wrist.

ALEX
Close.

TANAKA (O.S.)
Hurry. The worms are in the apple.

Alex stops short of the doorknobs, glances back at the entrance.

Darius and Lexington enter arm-in-arm, greet by others. Korb enters behind them.

TANAKA (O.S.)
They’ll be in the core soon.

Cautiously, Alex slips through the doors.
INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Spacious, two stories. Diagonal rows of ivory bookcases cover the floors. At the heart of the room is a dazzling pool.

    ALEX
    I’m in.

    TANAKA (V.O.)
    Grab a good seat.

    ALEX
    Where’d you get these fancy walkie-talkie’s?

    TANAKA (V.O.)
    I stole them too.

    ALEX
    And to think, I left you alone in my car.

He hustles up the stairs.

INT. BALLROOM

Darius eyes his watch.

    DARIUS
    Where is she?

Jannensen drags a reluctant Mia through the crowd.

    JANNENSEN
    Darius! Caught her trying to run.

Shovers her into Darius’s arms.

Darius grins, pulls Mia aside, forcing her to slow dance.

    DARIUS
    Avoiding me?

Mia cooks up an excuse.

    MIA
    I have paperwork to finish. Lots of it.
DARIUS
You’re helping us spawn the most radical turn of the century. Paperwork can wait.

Darius pulls Mia towards the library doors. All the while, Mia can’t help but look about, nervously. Lexington follows.

TANAKA
Alex, they’re coming in. Someone’s with them.

INT. LIBRARY
Alex positions himself out of sight, near the second floor railing.

They enter.

ALEX
Sonvabitch. It’s Mia.

TANAKA (V.O.)
You know that woman?

ALEX
She’s my boss.

Lexington passes Mia -- they lock stares, Lexington testing Mia with her pride.

MIA
Problem?

LEXINGTON
You’re still breathing.

DARIUS
Ladies! Take some fucking Midol, jeez. You’re like cats and dogs. You gotta argue every time you see each other?

Both take a seat at a study table.

LEXINGTON
Sorry, baby. You know how I hate sharing the spotlight.

DARIUS
Yeah, well two heads are better than one, so deal with it.
INT. BALLROOM

Korb and Jannensen guard the library entrance. Korb is obviously bored.

    KORB
    What are we doing here, Jan?

    JANNENSEN
    What are you talking about?

    KORB
    Think about it: we run around guarding a jerk who ain’t even guaranteed to be alive tomorrow.

    JANNENSEN
    Neither are you, so watch what you say.

    KORB
    Yeah, I bet I’ll last longer than that asshole. 
    (beat)
    Let’s play I spy.

    JANNENSEN
    Why do you always have to be annoying?

    KORB
    C’mon, it’ll be fun. I’ll go first. I spy, with my eye...

Korb spots Tanaka talking into her bracelet.

    KORB
    Oh, shit.

    JANNENSEN
    What now?

    KORB
    Someone who has yet to die.

INT. LIBRARY

    DARIUS
    (to Lexington)
    Report.
LEXINGTON
She’s attracted the sickness, but she won’t morph.

ALEX
Sickness?

TANAKA (V.O.)
Illness spawned from premature transformation. Like morning sickness.

LEXINGTON
My eval says she’s far from ready. How do you expect us to be done by the ceremony?

Darius nods. Knows just what to do.

DARIUS
Induce her.

Mia looks up, shocked. Even Lexington is a bit startled.

LEXINGTON
She’s too young.
(off his look)
The shock alone could kill her.

DARIUS
We have a deadline to meet.

LEXINGTON
But we’re not trying to risk loosing her information altogether. That’s ludicrous.

DARIUS
I live to risk.

MIA
Where’s your heart, Darius? If she dies you’ll be murdering an innocent child.

LEXINGTON
Look who’s talking.

Mia whips out her .45, aims at Lexington.

MIA
Eat me, bitch.

Lexington’s eyes GLOW RED.
LEXINGTON
Careful what you wish for --

Jannensen bursts into the library.

JANNENSEN
We’ve got company. It’s the voodoo lady.

ALEX
Who’s that?
(beat)
Tanaka?

TANAKA (O.S.)
Get your hands off me!

Alex peeks over the railing. Korb drags Tanaka into the room.

Alex curses to himself.

TANAKA
Let me go!

Korb shoves her forward.

DARIUS
Meetings adjourned. Mia, I’m sending the serums with you. Deliver it to the receiving team at the Bradford warehouse, the old security room.

MIA
What about the code?

DARIUS
They know the code. Korb, get the cube.

Korb heads up the stairs.

Darius snatches Mia’s .45 from her grasp, and jams it into the side of Tanaka’s head.

MIA
Hey, what are you doing?

She tries to grab the gun, but Lexington holds her back.

DARIUS
Finishing my orders.
MIA
Darius, no!

Korb screams. They look up.

He plummets from the second floor. SPLASH! Into the swimming pool.

Wolf Alex leaps over the railing, down to ground level.

DARIUS
Kill him!

Lexington and Jannensen transform. They viscously converge on him. But Alex is Alex. He exchanges BLOWS, each strike undeniably as powerful as the next.

Pins Lexington against a bookcase, allowing Jannensen a chance to attack from behind.

She lunges forward. As she misses, one of Alex’s heads SINKS ITS TEETH deep into her neck.

She seizures. Wails in agony, the wail converting into a woman’s scream as she reverts to human.

Alex and Lexington tumble out into the open.

Landing right in Darius’s peripherals. He takes aim. Just as Tanaka leaps onto his back.

Darius MISFIRES.

A bullet PLANTS into Alex’s leg, another in his shoulder.

With his guard down, Lexington shoulders him as hard as she can through the library doors.

INT. BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex CRASHES into the fountain, totally dismantling its structure.

Bystanders shriek in terror.

Tanaka emerges from the library, rushes to his aide.

TANAKA
Get up, we’ve got to escape!

Alex looks up. There is a skylight.
Scoops Tanaka into his arms. And with all his might, leaps for it.

They SHATTER through the skylight, and into the darkness, leaving the mansion behind in chaos.

EXT. DARIUS’S MANSION, COURTYARD – NIGHT

Cops secure the perimeter with “caution” tape. Surgeons treat wounded bystanders.

Mia sits alone, wrapped in the comfort of a blanket, a heavy frown on her face. Darius approaches her.

DARIUS
Okay, the cube is yours. Don’t be late.

Disappointed, Mia looks away.

Darius stares at Mia, appalled.

MIA
I want out.

DARIUS
Out?
(chuckles)
Do the math. There is not out.

He starts away.

MIA
Kyrios.

Darius pauses. He’s shitting his pants now.

MIA
You do the math.

Darius walks right up to her. For a moment, it seems Mia just may back down. But she holds her own. Face to face.

DARIUS
Deal. Take the cube. And you’re out.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A dark ACURA pulls into the driveway of a small house. Mia climbs out, cube in hand. Heads for the door.

INT. MIA’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Knob turns, Mia enters. CLICKS on the light.

    ALEX (O.S.)
    Sold anyone out lately?

Before she can reach for her gun, Alex’s gun is already against her skull. Mia sakes her head, in regret.

    MIA
    Everybody has secrets. Some for the better, some for the worse.

COCKS his gun. Her eyes widen, frightened.

    MIA
    Alex --

    ALEX
    Just gimme the cube.

    MIA
    If I don’t deliver this thing in five hours, I’m dead.

    ALEX
    Fair trade.

Alex reaches for it. But Mia tucks the cube away safely, backs towards a wall.

    MIA
    Alex, please --

    ALEX
    How long have you been hiding this from me? Huh?

Alex FIRES. His bullet SHATTERS the glass on a large picture frame above her mantle.

    MIA
    Alex! Are you crazy?

    ALEX
    Since I joined the force?
FIRES another round, this time SHATTERING ceramic ornaments to pieces.

ALEX
Since I got married?

MIA
I order you to put that gun down, right now!

FIRES. The bullet grazes a small picture, it tumble to the floor.

Mia almost dies right in the middle of the floor.

Drops the cube, scrambles frantically towards the picture.

ALEX
Why, Mia?

She scoops the picture off the ground, hugs it tightly.

MIA
Oh, my God! How could you do that? How could you do that?

ALEX
Answer me!

Mia cringes with rage, tears are rolling now.

MIA
You wanna know?

SMASHES the picture frame open against the mantle, pulls the photo from the broken glass.

MIA
Here! This is why!

Slaps the picture on his chest. Alex examines it.

PHOTO: Mia and that small boy.

MIA
My son is dead! And when his murderer went free of conviction Darius reaped justice on my behalf. Now, that son of a bitch is reaping justice on me. So, kill me, because I am sick of not having the courage to do it myself.
Mia braces for the impact of a bullet. Alex gapes at her, knows he’s went too far.

ALEX
Mia --

MIA
Just do it. Take your shot, Alex.

ALEX
Mia --

MIA
Take your shot!

She grabs the gun, but Alex fights back. The gun goes off, BAM! BAM! Rounds pierce the ceiling as one struggles to overpower the other.

ALEX
Mia, no!

MIA
Kill me! Kill me!

Alex rips the gun from her grasp. She rushes him. He sidesteps, shoves her onto a couch.

Exhausted, Mia lets go of her emotions, sobs.

MIA
I miss him, Alex. I miss him so much...

Alex eyeballs his gun as if it were the epitome of evil. UNLOADS it. Tosses the clip into a nearby trash can.

MIA (V.O.)
I don’t know why he chose me to deliver it.

INT. MIA’S HOUSE, KITCHEN – NIGHT

Alex fills a shot glass with a bottle of vodka. The two converse at a dining table.

MIA
Never even met the bastards.

Alex down the shot.

ALEX
I’m sorry for breaking in.
MIA
I blame myself. I shouldn’t have kept you in the dark. I was afraid. I’m not ready for death.

ALEX
Death is a part of life. All you can do is breathe.

MIA
Or, suffocate.

Pours another shot.

ALEX
So, you knew about the murders all along?

MIA
You’re not the only one I cover up for. Once he found out your secret, he forced me to hand you over on a silver platter.

She begins to grin with vengeful satisfaction.

MIA
But I got the last laugh.
(off his look)
Darius isn’t really Darius.

ALEX
What do you mean?

Mia goes to a kitchen drawer. Pulls out a folded stack of papyrus, ancient, frayed. Strange inscriptions written all over. Hands it over.

MIA
See for yourself --

Alex shushes her. A beat. Alex creeps towards the living room. Mia grabs her gun, follows.

EXT. MIA’S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

They round the side of the house.

MIA
What is it?

Lexington drops from the roof, lands right behind Mia.
She HOWLS - powerful shock waves punches our heroes through a wooden fence, into a neighboring backyard.

Mia FIRES.

Lexington leaps into the air, FLAPPING to twenty feet in no time. She soars off into the night.

Alex groans.

MIA
You okay, Alex?

Just then, Lexington SWOOPS down from behind -- FLAPPING right towards her.

ALEX
Mia!

Mia turns. As Lexington SLAMS into her, claws first. Knocking the gun from her hands, into Alex’s reach.

Mia shrieks as Lexington viscously MAULS her insides out.

Alex grabs the gun, FIRES.

Lexington is bombarded in a hail mary of silver bullets. The gunfire becomes too much. She takes flight.

But Alex keeps FIRING until - CLICK. The magazine is empty. Rushes to Mia’s aid.

She’s dead.

He curses to himself, buries his face in his hands.

INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM 532 - LATER

TANAKA
Dead?

Alex paces back and forth, still shaken.

ALEX
Dead. She left me this.

Hands Tanaka the crumpled papyrus. Her eyes light up.

TANAKA
These must be the missing pages from the Book of Oriox.
ALEX
So, what does it say?

She translates as fast as it will come.

TANAKA
... It’s... a story about... a sect. The Black Wolf.

(beat)
They were all cerberus bred.

NINA
Can we stick with the important things? How are we going to find Kinia?

ALEX
The cube. We have to open it.

NINA
How? His team’s the only one who knows that stupid code.

TANAKA
Did Mia name of them?

ALEX
She said they’ve never met.

TANAKA
Then, I’ll take it.

ALEX
Won’t work. Name one person who doesn’t know your face.

NINA
Nobody knows mines.

Alex looks up bewildered. But Nina’s not joking.

ALEX
Hell no. You’re still healing, you can’t even walk.

Nina throws back her blankets - the wound is nearly replaced by a permanent scar. She climbs from the bed, supporting her balance on the bed railing.

With a nervous glance, she releases the rail. And step by painful step, walks forward. Right into Alex’s arms.

Tanaka beams a smile at Alex.
TANAKA
Would you like to rephrase that?

ALEX
I should’ve signed those divorce papers.

INT. WAREHOUSE – CONTINUOUS

A TECHNO RAVE.

A two-story establishment infested with a twisted city. BODIES sway under flickering STROBE LIGHTS. A tainted crowd plays out their wildest fantasies.

AT THE BAR

Our heroes are gathered.

ALEX
Ready?

Nina rotates the cover of the faceless watch on her wrist. Tanaka taps her earring, and that dagger at her waist.

TANAKA
We need to hurry --

ALEX
I know. I sense it too. Something’s wrong in here.

Alex guides them into the mass.

INT. INTERSECTING HALLWAY – NIGHT

A sheer dump beset by trash, overturned chairs, and broken tables.

Midway through, Nina stops them. Continues alone.

Pauses at a burgundy door at the end, KNOCKS. Door opens. A MAN with a TATTOO on his face locks eyes with her.

TATTOO FACE
Who are you?

Nina pulls the cube from beneath her coat. Tattoo face checks the hall for followers.

Coast clear.
Nods, in clearance. She enters.

INT. SECURITY ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Glass fibers litter the floor. Filthy furniture reeks of piss. Busted monitors, some still bear scorches from a fire that licked its way though a few years back.

A rodent scamper over Nina’s foot - almost ripping away her composure. Makes her way forward.

Other MEN around the room gawk, undressing her with their eyes. At the head, an ELDER MAN at an oval desk.

Nina sets down the cube. Elder man pulls the cube closer.

ELDER MAN
Message one, eight, three, six, four.

The computer screen lights up a NEON ORANGE.

A compartment slides open. Condensed vapors leak into the air. Revealing a pouch with two syringe guns and six syringe barrels, each filled with two sets of liquid – RED, GREEN, and YELLOW, and a blood sample in a beaker labeled “DARIUS”.

Tattoo face whips out his cellular, dials.

TATTOO FACE
Where are you?
(pauses)
Good, the delivery girl’s here.
(pauses)
You’re shitting me. We’ll handle it.

Hangs up the phone.

TATTOO FACE
That was Lexington. Mia’s dead.

Faces around the room turn to stone – they’ve been duped. Elder man grabs Nina by the hair, drags her onto the desk.

The others help to pin her down as she fights for her life.

NINA
No! Wait!

BOOM! The door swings open:
Alex and Tanaka rush in, move through the ranks with ferocious precision and speed, neck SNAPPING, head RAMMING, whatever kills --

Until the gang lie dismantled in death throughout the room.

    ALEX
    You okay?

    NINA
    I’ll live.

    ALEX
    What is that?

Picks the pouch from the cube.

    TANAKA
    Must be the serum. We’ll examine it later.

Wolf Lexington PLOWS through the wall. Dives on top of our heroes...

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ceiling gives way. The four tumble to the ground.

The music stops. People back off, alert, confused.

Alex and Tanaka are okay, aside minor scrapes. Nina is unconscious. He feels for her pulse. Sighs in relief.

Lexington MOANS to a slow death. Suddenly, a sharp piece of FLOORBOARD stops over her, inches from her heart.

The floorboard is in Alex’s possession.

    TANAKA
    No.

    (to Lexington)
    You can either die, or come with us.

Lexington gives in transforms back to human. Tanaka pulls Lexington to her feet, whips the dagger up to her neck.

    TANAKA
    Shall we?

She shoves Lexington forward on tattered legs. Alex grabs Nina, and follows.
But the crowd won’t part. They challenge our heroes with murderous glares.

Suddenly, the CROWD TRANSFORMS INTO WEREWOLVES. Their low GROWLS combine into a terrifying rumble. En masse, they creep forward.

TANAKA
Excuse me.

Her eyes GLOW. She turns in a circle so that all can see.

The multitude pauses. Frightened.

TANAKA
I wouldn’t do that.

They move towards the exit. And a path slowly opens as they move along.

INT. ACURA – NIGHT

Tanaka drives. Alex is in the back with Nina. She’s still out cold. He gazes at Kinia’s bracelet, as if memorizing every detail.

TANAKA
What is that?

ALEX
It’s my daughter.

TANAKA
You’re going to depress yourself.

ALEX
My daughter has been kidnapped, and it’s my fault. Where’s the bright side in that?

TANAKA
You don’t hold the key to every door, but that doesn’t mean there’s no way in.

ALEX
I’d like to repay you, but I know I can’t.

TANAKA
Are you trying to thank me?
ALEX
You can say that.
(hands her bracelet)
Hang on to it for me.

TANAKA
Why?

ALEX
It’s a symbol of hope. Something I
trust in your hands.

Tanaka tries on the bracelet.

TANAKA
It fits.

INT. DARIUS’S ROOM - NIGHT

It could be mistaken for a luxury suite. Thousand dollar
rugs and expensive furniture adorn the room.

Darius stares out of a huge window. Eyes wandering across a
city trapped under a severe thunderstorm.

Korb and Jannensen burst in.

JANNENSEN
Darius, they’ve got the serum.

DARIUS
What?

JANNENSEN
Lexington too.

KORB
This is horse shit! Toothpik’s
dead, Ergo’s dead, Lexington’s
catching --

DARIUS
Korb --

KORB
Fuck this, man! I gotta go!
You’re not gonna kill me too --

Darius yanks Korb by the throat, shoves his head through the
window. His slashed face is blasted with rain. He flails
helplessly.
DARIUS
You’re a general, death is always around the corner. See for yourself.

He pushes Korb out further. A nauseating glimpse of the ground.

KORB
No, please! I’ll love you long time, anything, just pull me back in!

Yanks him back inside. Korb rolls to stop. Beaten, but grateful.

DARIUS
Let’s give Alex a call.

INT. BEDROOM – DAY

Nina snaps awake, half naked in a bed. Pain instantly grips her, especially her side: examines a blood-soaked bandage. Her surroundings slowly become familiar.

ALEX (O.S.)
Welcome back.

Nina quickly scrambles her body beneath the sheets. Alex lingers in the doorway.

ALEX
You do know I’m your husband, and not a pervert, right?

NINA
Ex-husband.

Nina climbs from bed, enters her closet in search of a new outfit.

ALEX
Just came to say thanks for what you did back there. I mean, with her life at stake --

NINA
It was at stake a long time ago, Alex.

ALEX
What are you saying?
NINA
I’m saying that she is not fourth or fifth in your life and you treating her that way got us to this point. But applaud yourself anyway, at least your mother would be proud of you.

Alex pauses as painful memories roll in.

ALEX
My mother died not even three feet away from me because I was paralyzed on the floor, and couldn’t get help. I won’t be paralyzed again.

Turns to leave. She grabs him by the arm, he pauses.

NINA
Wait. I’m sorry. That was low and I shouldn’t have said that.

She notices Alex’s wedding ring. Looks at her own, ring-less fingers.

NINA
Some wounds just don’t heal alone.

Alex nods, understands. Sort of.

ALEX
I’ve gotta go. Mia’s killer is downstairs. To save Kinia, I need answers.

Starts past her, she cuts off his retreat.

NINA
We need answers.

INT. BASEMENT - TIMELESS
Lexington is strapped to a metal chair.

Our heroes stand gathered like shadows. Alex draws his firearm, hands it to Tanaka.

NINA
What are you doing?

ALEX
It’s part of the routine.
Alex pulls up a seat.

ALEX
Pretty sure you know what I expect.

Tanaka COCKS the gun. Alex tosses the pouch of beakers onto Lexington’s lap.

ALEX
What’s that?

LEXINGTON
Piss off.

Tanaka FIRES, the bullet blow through Lexington’s leg. She jerks, moans.

Nina yelps, startled.

TANAKA
You’ve been asked a question.  Answer it.

LEXINGTON
Chemicals! They’re chemicals! Red copies DNA. Green induces.

NINA
But there’s three colors.

She grabs a yellow beaker, holds it up to Lexington’s face.

ALEX
Yeah, what about yellow?

LEXINGTON
Untie me.

Tanaka FIRES. A bullet RIPS into Lexington’s shoulder, the blood splattering onto Nina’s clothing. Nina screams.

ALEX
Nina, will you stop it?

NINA
I’m trying!

LEXINGTON
Medicine!

The response completely catches our heroes off guard.
LEXINGTON
Darius suffers from an ancient disease we call hybrid breakdown – where the werewolf body loses its capability of rational thought, the human side... he isn’t really Darius...

Those words! Alex digs into his pockets, pulls out the papyrus Mia gave him.

TANAKA
What’s that?

Hands it to her. Tanaka examines the inscriptions. Her mouth drops in awe.

TANAKA
The missing pages! Where did you get this?

ALEX
Mia.

Tanaka skims over the text.

TANAKA
I’ll need time to decipher this.

ALEX
Why induce her? Why didn’t he take me instead of my daughter?

LEXINGTON
Her primal DNA strands haven’t interlaced with her human strands. Yours have. Trying to take your DNA is the equivalent of trying to extract your skeleton without trying to kill you.

TANAKA
And you can’t let her die because if she does, those uncoiled DNA strands are no use to you. But this entire operation is treason anyway, isn’t it?

Lexington looks on with fiery eyes. Gigs up.
LEXINGTON
Once we get what we want, they won’t be around to sentence him. A revolution is at hand and they’re all fucked just like you.

Alex moves in, stops inches from her nose.

ALEX
Where’s my daughter?

Lexington flashes a mischievous grin.

LEXINGTON
Right where she’s always been.

Tanaka aims at Lexington’s forehead. Nina turns away.

NINA
Oh, God, I can’t watch.

TANAKA
That’s not what he asked.

ALEX
No!

At that moment, a cellular RINGS.

But it’s not coming from Alex. It’s coming from Lexington. He fishes through her back pocket, retrieves her CELL PHONE.

Hits talk, puts it to Lexington’s ear.

LEXINGTON
Lexington.

Pulls away, nods to Alex. Confused, Alex puts the phone to his ear.

ALEX
Hello?

INT. STREET – NIGHT

The Acura drives down a lonely street, pulls up along a curb.

Across the street, a sign hangs over the rusted, iron gates of a CEMETERY.

Our heroes step from the car. Held at gunpoint, Lexington hobbles out.
INT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Old as time itself. Decayed tombstones of once fine masonry lie rigid, buried in an eerie fog that has just settled.

An unmarked grave. Kinia stands before it, scared. Darius and Korb behind her.

Our heroes approach in Lexington’s background. They pause on the opposite side of the grave.

   KINIA
   Mommy!

   NINA
   Baby!

Kinia steps forward. Darius jerks her back.

   DARIUS
   This is supposed to be a fair trade. Where’s my serum?

Alex draws the pouch from his jacket. Darius grins.

   DARIUS
   You came through. Send it over.

Alex slaps the pouch into Lexington’s chest.

   ALEX
   Go.

Lexington hobbles towards Darius.

Kinia starts towards her parents.

A strange scent greets Nina’s nose. She scans the area in search of the scent.

   NINA
   (to herself)
   What is that?

   DARIUS
   You have no idea how much your daughter means to me, Alex. She’s treasure. A fucking gold mine all on her own. Yet, here I am, willing to give it all up.

   ALEX
   Your ghost is next.
DARIUS
I’m not the one you should be worrying about. I’ve noticed how close you and Tanaka have grown. She ever tell you why I was trying to kill her?

ALEX
She stole the Book of Oriox.

DARIUS
Please. No one gives a shit about that book. But the bounty for a renegade councilor, money in the bank.

Alex looks at Tanaka, confused. Tanaka glares at Darius.

DARIUS
Guess I can I gather from that look on your face she didn’t tell you she used to be on the council.

TANAKA
I don’t lie.

Lexington and Kinia are about to pass each other.
And then, the smell hits her --

NINA
Kerosene... kerosene!

Lexington and Kinia are parallel --

Darius whips out his gun.

ALEX/NINA
Kinia!/ No!

BAM! BAM! BAM! Bullets rip through the soil of the earth. Grass IGNITES, a savage RING OF FIRE spreads furiously around the grave. Separating Kinia and our heroes.

Darius grabs her. Together, our villains scurry away.
Tanaka bails towards the car.

Alex and Nina give chase.

The villains leap high over stone wall with Kinia yelling for her parents.

Alex jumps the wall after them.
Nina stops. Looks at the scar on her leg. Not quite healed.

VAROOM! The Acura drives up beside her, passenger side door flings open.

    TANAKA
    Get in!

Nina hops in. They ZOOM away.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The villains sprint to their getaway vehicle. Jannensen waits behind the wheel. Lexington and Korb climb in.

Darius looks back - Alex is just yards away. Darius curses.

    DARIUS
    Lexington!

Tosses the serum to her. Reaches in his pocket, activates his TRACKER. He TRACKER stuck to the vehicle’s dashboard activates.

    DARIUS
    Follow me!

Jannensen STOMPS the gas. Vehicle peels off the curb.

Darius sprints into the city. Alex races after him. Acura drives up.

    ALEX
    (to others)
    Follow them!

Tanaka speeds after the getaway.

Darius cuts a corner with Alex on his heels.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Darius darts through. And so does Alex, slowly gaining. Closer... closer...

Suddenly, Darius transforms. Spreads his wings.

But Alex is ready -- gun aims. FIRES. Slugs blast through Darius’s wings. He battles the agony, and leaps -- wall to wall, using claw and talon to bounce to the top.

With no choice, Alex transforms. And leaps.
EXT. ROOF OF A BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Alex reaches the top. Spots Darius, now two buildings away. Bolts after him.

The two bound near-gracefully, rooftop to rooftop, building to building. Below, Darius’s getaway comes into view.

EXT. STREETS

The getaway glides in and out of traffic. The Acura doesn’t miss a beat.

INT./EXT. ACURA/GETAWAY

Tanaka hands Nina her gun.

    TANAKA
    How good you?

Nina just stares at it, horrified.

    TANAKA
    Never mind.

Aims. FIRES.

Bullets torpedoes through the back windshield. One goes into Korb whips out his gun. FIRES.

Bullets blitz the front windshield of the Acura. Nina shrieks. Tanaka dodges, cuts behind a van for shielding.

Jannenssen hits a sharp left -- loosing Tanaka and Nina in traffic.

EXT. ROOFTOPS

Alex and Darius still at cat and mouse. Darius shoulders through a post holding up a billboard. Billboard starts to collapse.

Alex leaps right pass it. As Darius rams through another. This time, collision is inevitable.

CRASH! As the structure collapses with Alex beneath it.

A beat. Suddenly, Alex tears through the billboard.
Catches but a glimpse of Darius finally leaping to the ground a building away. Alex sprints onward.

**EXT. HARBOR - CONTINUOUS**

The place is a maze of rundown warehouses. Thunder **BOOMS**, it begins to **DRIZZLE**.

Darius hustles through. Alex lands a corner behind. Alex cuts the same corner. And the next, the next, and the next. Lost him. Where is he? One more corner -- Alex pauses.

Darius stands next to the getaway vehicle. Kinia squirms in his arms. Darius transforms to human.

DARIUS
De-morph.

Alex transforms back to human.

Lightning **CRACKLES**. A chaotic rainfall erupts from the sky.

DARIUS
Been doing this a long time, Alex. No friends. No family. I’m finally on the verge of recovery, and you want to get in the way.

ALEX
Your struggles aren’t my problem.

DARIUS
You don’t you get it -- I’m dying, Alex. And if I die, my entire race dies. The cerberus gene can change all that.

ALEX
There are better ways than this that don’t involve the death of innocent people.

DARIUS
You shitting me? No one’s going to give you life. You have to take it. Or, let it go...

Looks to turbulent waters below.

ALEX
Don’t do it, Darius.
DARIUS
Hey, Alex? Go fish.

ALEX
No!

Kinia screams as he slings her into the harbor.

Alex sprints after her.

Darius scurries into the getaway vehicle. Jannensen STOMPS
the gas pedal. The villains speed into the night.

And Alex dives into the harbor. Comes up for one breath of
air, and back down he goes.

Moments later, he resurfaces -- with Kinia.

MOMENTS LATER

Alex lies Kinia on her back. Checks Kinia’s pulse.

ALEX
No.

He desperately performs CPR, but to no avail.

ALEX
Don’t quit... don’t quit... c’mon.

Checks for a pulse again. Slowly, his CPR performance comes
to a halt, face tangled between hope and misery. Finally,
despair creeps in.

Looks away. Curses. A strange, CRACKLING noise forces him
to look back down.

Slowly, Kinia mutates, shifting, shaping into a full-grown
adult, suddenly, an entirely different person -- JANNENSEN.

Alex can only stare, completely captivated.

NINA (O.S.)
This just doesn’t make sense to me.

INT. NINA’S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

Still puzzled, Nina nibbles at her nails. Tanaka examines
the papyrus pages. Alex sits alone.
TANAKA
Theoretically, humans have two
types of genes, dominant — what’s
seen on the outside, and recessive —
what’s inside. So do werewolves,
but in transformation, the genes
trade places.

NINA
So... she copied Kinia’s genes,
added them to her recessive genes,
then transformed?

Tanaka nods. Basically.

NINA
But that can’t be. I mean, you’d
literally rewrite your own DNA
sequence, maybe even create a brand
new species altogether.

Tanaka doesn’t respond. The thought is just too wild. Turns
to Alex.

TANAKA
You’ve been shooting daggers at all
night?

For the first time we realize Alex is glaring at Tanaka in
pure betrayal.

ALEX
Why didn’t you tell me?

TANAKA
I’m not one of them.

ALEX
Then, who the hell are you?
Explain you being a councilor.

Tanaka pauses.

TANAKA
I am an ancient that lost their
way, like many of us do. But I
learned truth through the Book of
Oriox. I am reborn, me again.

Alex leaps to his feet, whips out his firearm.

NINA
Alex, have you gone psycho?
ALEX
She’s a traitor.

NINA
That’s your problem. Finger always on the trigger, ready to pull it for the wrong reasons.

ALEX
She’s the reason Kinia’s in this mess.

NINA
She’s gotten you closer to finding Kinia than you ever would’ve a thousand life times! You’re the reason Kinia’s in this mess!

ALEX
I love Kinia to death --

NINA
Nine years, Alex? You kept this entire thing a secret. Had you have been honest to me from the git-go, you wouldn’t have a daughter.

Alex gawks at her, words caught in his throat. Can’t believe what he just heard.

NINA
You lied to me. And more importantly, you’ve endangered Kinia’s life. And why? To keep a lousy secret.

Alex has had enough. Starts away.

NINA
Where are you going?

ALEX
To end this.

INT. HALLWAY - TIMELESS

Guards drag Vincent towards a metallic door.

VINCENT
This is wrong! You can’t treat people like this!

One guard UNLOCKS the door, tugs it open.
INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - TIMELESS

The guards toss Vincent inside, and BOLT the door shut. Vincent climbs to his feet.

VINCENT
Hey! I’m talking to you knuckleheads!

ALEX (O.S.)
Vincent.

VINCENT
Aw, chicken shit, what do you want?

Alex emerges from the shadows, gun at the ready.

VINCENT
What the hell --

Pins him against the wall, aims the gun dead over Vincent’s eye.

ALEX
I swear to God you are going to cooperate with me, or you’ll see what Hell is like up close and personal.

Pulls the talon from his pocket.

ALEX
Tell me what this is. What is it?!

Vincent shoves back, in the midst of their scuffle, Alex pulls away - RIP! The seams of his shirt shred in Vincent’s grip.

Revealing hundreds of permanent flesh SCARS on his body. Appalled, Vincent takes a step back.

ALEX
Shocked? You did it to me! This is your fault!

In a rage of frustration, Alex SNAPS the dog tag from around his neck, and chunks it.

It CLATTERS against the wall, lands next to Vincent. Confused, Vincent picks it up.

VINCENT
My dog tag. You still wear it?
ALEX
I’m still your son.

VINCENT
Edna’s scent. It’s still all over it.

Vincent gazes up at Alex with a guilt look.

VINCENT
I made a mistake, and I can’t fix it. But you can’t fix the past, only the future. When things change, and you gotta change with them. Alex, you gotta let this go.

A beat. Alex can’t move, barely breathes. Thinking. Wondering.

VINCENT
Let it go.

Alex shakes his head. Starts towards the door.

ALEX
I’d rather hate you somewhere else.

Vincent grabs the talon, stands.

VINCENT
Genetic engineering.

Alex pauses.

VINCENT
You know. Enhancements to the body. Talon’s an enhancement.

Alex stays paused. Is this a joke? Vincent tosses the talon to him. Slowly, Alex finds his own words.

ALEX
They’re already killing machines. Why enhance the body?

Vincent shrugs.

VINCENT
Why not?

Alex looks off. Good point.
VINCENT
Ever find out who attacked you with it?

ALEX
A man. Darius Corbet.

VINCENT
Never heard of ‘em.

ALEX
What do you know about the Black Wolf?

VINCENT
Toughest sonuvabitches of the ancient world. Led the greatest revolt in history. Weren’t match enough for the Council.

ALEX
What happened to them?

VINCENT
Got sick. Every single last one. Started out like regular werewolves, until their leader, Kyrios, learned how to replicate the cerberus gene. What he didn’t know was the carrier he used spiked his DNA. Height of the war comes, spike kicks in, the fall like dominoes. They became weaker, slower, mindless, three-headed canines. Finally, went extinct.

Realization sinks in.

ALEX
It’s a mission. He’s gonna kill them.

VINCENT
Who?

ALEX
The Councilors. Kyrios didn’t die, he changed faces. He’s been trying to replicate a perfect version of the cerberus gene for years, and now it may actually happen.
VINCENT
He can’t kill them. In fear of assassination The Council never gives up their location to anyone, or which one of them is in charge.

ALEX
Not if he becomes a councilor himself. They’re gonna induct him tonight. And he has my daughter.

The statement catches Vincent off guard.

VINCENT
No. How did Kinia get wrapped up in this?

ALEX
All I can tell you right now is that I have to stop him before anything happens to her. But I still don’t have a clue where the induction ceremony is gonna be.

VINCENT
That’s easy, it’ll be at a temple. It’s where they keep all their treasures.

Alex thinks – the words sound familiar.

ALEX
Treasure? Oh, God. I know where she is.

Alex rushes towards the door.

VINCENT
Alex?

Alex pauses.

VINCENT
I can’t help you outside these walls. But she can.

Tosses him the dog tag. Alex nods. Eye to eye for the first time. Exits.

ALEX (O.S.)
Kinia’s in the temple.
INT. ACURA – NIGHT

Alex speeds through the streets, cellular pressed to his ear.

INT. NINA’S HOUSE, KITCHEN – NIGHT

Nina and Tanaka stand around. Alex’s voice projects on speaker phone.

INTERCUT – TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

NINA
Where?

ALEX
Darius called Kinia treasure. They keep treasure in their temples.

TANAKA
Even so, you can’t go alone.

ALEX
What’s it to you?

Tanaka sighs.

TANAKA
Alex, I’m sorry I didn’t tell you. I did escape the Council because of what I believed was being right. Understand I’m fighting for the same thing you are.

ALEX
I’m sorry too, for spinning off. Sometimes, you just gotta to let it go.

Alex opens the glove compartment. There are two syringe barrels, one with green liquid, one with red. Draws them both.

TANAKA
He thing we need to worry about now is the ceremony. That temple will be crawling with werewolves. How are you going to get in?

ALEX
Don’t worry about it.
TANAKA
You’re diving without a life jacket again.

ALEX
This time I swim alone.

Alex disconnects.

TANAKA
Alex?

Tanaka leans on the table – the bracelet still on her wrist catches her attention.

TANAKA
He needs us.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE – NIGHT

Alex sneaks away from the Acura, slips into the site. Scans the area, spots what he’s searching for --

The entryway that leads down into the temple. Alex whips out his gun, makes his way forward.

INT. ENTRYWAY – CONTINUOUS

Alex grabs a torch from its hold on the wall. Sneaks, onward, finding himself in a corridor of dozens of tunnels.

Just then, VOICES. Alex ducks into a random tunnel.

Two MEN stride out one of the tunnels, pass by Alex.

Once out of sight, Alex continues. One tunnel catches his eye. Enters.

INT. CAVERN – CONTINUOUS

The same cavern the Council meeting was held.

Tramples down the stairway, spots what he’s looking for.

A HOLOGRAM CUBE against the wall. With the coast clear, he rips away the back end, and starts tampering with the wiring.
INT. TEMPLE

The place is littered with guards, all caterers to the very important event. Some guards wire dozens of cubes together near a large statue.

A guard hits a button on the of the combined cubes.

In unison, the cubes project the gargantuan 3-D images of the Councilors in all their splendor.

Lexington and Korb stand post near a wall of levers poking from the wall.

A dozen guards escort Darius towards them. Other guards look on.

The escorts line along the base of the access ramp. Darius strides past, to the central pad on the upper level.

JECIMOL
This is a day of honor, not just for you, but for all of us. And especially for me.

Darius bows to the Council.

JECIMOL
I now proceed to swear your allegiance to the elite, according what is written in the Book of Oriox.

ALEX (O.S.)
I object.

ACROSS THE LAYER

Alex marches towards him.

ALEX
Does it make sense to say that here?

DARIUS
Stop him.

At once, guards pour into his path.

JECIMOL
Wait.

The guards pause, back off. Alex continues towards the access ramp.
JECIMOL
Who are you?

ALEX
You were looking for the cerberus gene. Here I am.

JECIMOL
You’re the cerberus Darius warned us about?

Alex’s eyes glow, but he does not transform.

ALEX
Need I say more?

The Council is shaking now. They look to one another for an answer.

JECIMOL
He’s pure.

Darius starts to reply -- Alex walks up closer to Darius.

ALEX
Right. And you just scratched the surface. Ever heard of Kyrios?

Darius shoots Alex a shocked glare.

The Council falls into immediate silence. Along with the rest of the cavern.

JECIMOL
How do you know that name?

ALEX
He stabbed me -- with his talon.

JECIMOL
Werewolves don’t have talons.

Pulls the talon from his pocket.

ALEX
Exactly. You see, the elite didn’t win the war because they were smarter, they won because they evolved. Evolution’s a destiny. But Kyrios tried to use it as a tool.
JECIMOL
Why do you speak of him? Kyrios
has been dead for over a millennia,
along with his army.

ALEX
No. He’s been right under your
noses.

Darius explodes into rage, charges at Alex -- only to pass
right through his holographic image. Shirt RIPS as it
catches the sharp edge of a statue.

EXPOSING THE SICKLE-SHAPED SCAR.

The Council is floored.

ALEX
Darius isn’t really Darius. He’s a
copycat. He steals the genes of
others and uses it to survive. And
he’s been trying to replicate a
perfect version of the cerberus
gene ever since the rebellion. But
since he can’t, he’s gonna steal
it. Am I right? Kyrios?

The Council looks to Darius for answers.

DARIUS
I definitely give you credit, Alex.
You almost nailed the coffin shut.

Signals to Lexington.

She tugs on a lever hits a button on the wall.

The center of the pad OPENS. The CRANKING of a mechanism
resounds throughout the temple.

Rising into the center is a cage -- with KINIA inside. Cage
JOLTS to a halt, waking her, Alex’s image inside.

His eyes light up with shock.

ALEX
Kinia...

KINIA
Daddy?

She attempts to rise, but a pain in her abdomen stops her.

He reaches for her. Hands pass right through her.
JECIMOL
This is impossible.

DARIUS
What, that a ghost could return from the grave? Let’s see you murder me twice.

JECIMOL
You have betrayed the Council.

DARIUS
I created the Council! I brought you unity when Oriox died, and you killed me. But times change. Your location ain’t so secret anymore. The hybrid’s never went extinct, I’ve been breeding them here in my temple. See, I’ve got the perfect cure for myself, and when I’m cured, I’ll share that cure with my hybrids, and use my new army to march into the Straights and kill each and every one of you.

Jecimol is pissed off now.

JECIMOL
Your treason is punishable by death.
(to ALL)
To the first werewolf that kills Kyrios, his position will be given you!

An offer no werewolf can refuse. An instant frenzy erupts, guards everywhere MORPH, and storm the temple.

DARIUS
Korb, pull the lever!

But Korb doesn’t budge. A sly grin spreads ear to ear.

KORB
Time to die, you son of a bitch.

Korb’s eyes GLOW. Until claws RIP through his insides, Lexington behind it all. Shoves his limp body aside. Pulls the lever.

Steel ERUPTS through the upper level, forming into a larger CAGE, shielding him from attacking werewolves.

Darius draws a key, UNLOCKS Kinia’s cage.
On a ledge towards the top of the temple, the real Alex watches.

ALEX

No!

As a werewolf sneaks up behind him. BAM! A bullet shatters clean through its forehead. It tumbles over the edge.

ACROSS THE TEMPLE - TANAKA AND NINA

On a ledge. Nina has a syringe gun a the yellow-liquid barrel. Tanaka holds the firearm.

TANAKA

Alex, go!

She FIRES into the fray below, seeking out werewolves.

Alex MORPHS.

ON THE PAD - DARIUS

Looks up - just as Alex transforms. Leaps forward, his hologram passing right through Darius’s body.

As the real Alex soars from above, lands on top of the cage.

Darius flicks out his syringe gun and loads his red liquid barrel. STABS the needle into her neck, and injects. She seizures violently right out of his hands.

Alex RAKES roof of the cage open with his claws. Darius transforms. Alex leaps down, attacks.

And then, Kinia’s eyes snap open with a blinding white GLOW.

Slowly, she transforms. Her entire body darkens, glazing with black skin. Bones shift and bend into position.

Lower body thickens, forcing her to all fours. METALLIC TALONS sprout rapidly, slamming into Alex and Darius.

Finally, the cages are too small. They RIP open, werewolves are flung everywhere.

Statues on the pad SHATTER to chunks of rock - triggering an ALARM.

Compartments all over the temple floor OPEN, revealing dozens of pits:

And hundreds of HYBRIDS. They YELP ferociously.
A few attacking wolves lose footing, tumble into the pits. And hybrids swarm over them without haste. In moments, they are halfway to bones.

Other attackers retreat from the erupting carnage.

Kinia is still growing. One-story... two-stories. HORNS emerge from her nose and forehead.

ALEX

Half motionless in a pile of rubble. Reverts back to human. Stands. Just then, footsteps:

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.

Spins around. Kinia, now a three-eyed behemoth stares back at him.

ON THE LEDGE - TANAKA

TANAKA

He’ll never beat her.

(hands Nina her gun)

I’m going.

Tanaka leaps over the ledge, and into the fray. Her eyes GLOW that jungle green.

But this time, a transformation is the result: in moments, she and Kinia are the same size. FUR sprouts all over, SPIKES protrude from her tail, she SNORTS smoke and flames.

Kinia ROARS back in acceptance. And the mammoths collide. Earth SHIFTS instantly beneath them.

Sending remaining guard werewolves to the doom of the pits.

Alex flees the chaos - a group of escaped hybrids give chase.

Tanaka shoves Kinia backwards.

Kinia stumbles, CRUSHES a hybrid on Alex’s tail. SPLAT! And then, two more.

Kinia sinks her teeth into Tanaka’s shoulder. Tanaka SHRIEKS, swings her tail.

Misses Kinia. Alex too. But three hybrids are SMACKED into oblivion.

One last hybrid hasn’t strayed. Leaps. As the tail comes back around, spikes SEVERING it into multiple chunks.
Alex scampers from beneath the giants, and up the access ramp.

Tanaka BLASTS Kinia with a FLAMES. In retaliation, Kinia grabs hold of Tanaka’s neck with her metallic talons.

ALEX
Kinia, stop!

BATTERS her head repeatedly into a temple wall. Beaten, Tanaka collapses. Reverts to human form.

ALEX
Tanaka!

Kinia turns focus to Alex.

ALEX
Kinia, stop! It’s me.

She ROARS with such force that he is thrust head over heels down the access ramp, and into a pit.

NINA
Alex!

But he’s not down yet. He grabs hold to a ruptured chunk of earth. But it won’t hold forever. Already, it’s crumbling. Tries to reach up with the other hand.

Kinia edges towards him. Clearly, to finish the job.

Alex locks eyes with the beast.

ALEX
Kinia, look! Look at my eyes! Remember?


ALEX
Through anything?

Kinia relaxes, trying to remember... SHICK! Something pierces her neck. Wolf Darius reveals himself, and now a green liquid barrel loaded.

Before she can react, he injects the liquid, and soars away.

Kinia GROWLS, COLLAPSES, transforms back to human.

Alex curses to himself, continues to reach.
ON THE LEDGE - NINA

Watches in horror. Horror vanishes as she remembers the gun in her hand. Hesitant, she closes her eyes. And FIRES.

The bullet SHATTERS rock dust into Alex’s face.

    ALEX
    Whoa!
    NINA
    Sorry!

FIRES again. And again. Over and over, now.

ON THE FLOOR - ALEX

Most bullets meet their mark by chance. Attacking hybrids drop like flies.

ON THE LEDGE - NINA

Still firing. Suddenly, a WHOOSHING noise. Growing closer... it’s Lexington, wings flapping vigorously as she rises into view.

Nina pulls the trigger - CLICK. Magazine is empty.

Lexington scowls, charges. Nina dives out of the way. The yellow-liquid syringe barrel falls from her hands.

But Lexington is circling back.

The syringe gun! She grabs it, loads the syringe barrel.

Lexington slams into Nina, pins her to the wall. Nina jams the needle into Lexington’s flesh, pulls the trigger.

Lexington bellow in agony. Body begins to convulse. Lights GLOW brilliant array of colors. Stumbles - right over the ledge.

She’s falling...

Falling...

THWACK! Right into an upheaval of large rocks and dust. Transforms back to human. Slowly, her body goes limp.

ON THE FLOOR - ALEX

Gets his other hand on the rock. Pulls himself up.
Too late. Darius lands next to Kinia. With a barrel filled halfway with red liquid, he stabs the needle into her, flips a switch and begins to draw her blood.

Alex reaches for something in his attire, sprints for the access ramp.

The barrel is full now. Darius flips the switch again, injects himself. Draws a green liquid needle, changes barrels.

ALEX - twenty yards away... Darius injects himself, begins to convulse... ten yards away... Alex is on access ramp, Darius drops the gun, stumbles over the edge of the pad...

ON THE PAD - ALEX

Looks over the edge. Horrified, he takes a step back.

More demonic than canine, Darius sprouts to gargantuan size.

TWO ARMS sprout from his ribs and join his other two. Multiple sets of wings and stingers jut from his back.

ALEX

Very ugly.

Just then, Darius snatches him up into the air.

Causing Alex to drop

THE GREEN LIQUID BARREL IN HIS HAND.

He SLAMS Alex right through the images of the Council and into the wall behind them.

Nina winces.

NINA

Alex, morph! Morph!

He’s SLAMMED into another wall. And another.

Darius flings him to the ground like a rag doll. Alex lies, bloody, beaten.

Darius prepares to strike. Suddenly, winces as pain strikes him. In his leg.

It’s Korb. Emptying the green liquid into Darius’s bloodstream with the syringe gun. He SWATS him from his leg.
He soars across the temple like a shooting star, hacked violently by the sharp edges of a statue - dead before he even hits the ground.

Darius roars, anguish in his ribs. His abdomen. Then, all over. He succumbs, begins to revert to human against his will.

When it’s all over, a weary Darius lies in defeat on the pad. Alex starts towards him.

Darius stands, gives off that menacing glare. But the glow never comes. Tries again. Nothing.

ALEX
Red copies DNA. Green induces. I never actually traded back all of your serum. Nor that perfect blood sample you left for me.

Darius can only stare back in disbelief.

ALEX
Recessive genes - don’t you just love them?

Despite shock, Darius continues to try and morph. Change never comes.

ALEX
You don’t have recessive werewolf genes anymore, Darius. You’re just a human. Good thing Mia confessed the cover-ups she did for you. It’ll be easier to prosecute you.

With one last burst of effort, Darius charges towards Alex. Alex drops flat. Darius trips right over him.

And plummets into the pit of hybrids.

IN THE PIT

They swarm over him. He fights for freedom, but he’ll never escape. One hybrid CLAMPS jaws around his ankle. And drags him beneath the swarm.

ALEX

Scans the area, spots an unconscious Kinia, trapped on fissured grounding. The grounding is steady giving way towards a pit of hybrids.
NINA
Alex, she’s falling!

ALEX
Kinia, hang on!

BARKING hybrids challenge Alex to come for his daughter.

He measures up the distance between he and Kinia - not too far of a jump.

He takes off, storming forward with determination. Leaps. Soars right over the pit, and onto Kinia’s side. Gathers her in his arms.

ALEX
Gotcha.

Under his weight, the grounding shifts, COLLAPSES further towards the pit.

Grounding CRUMBLIES, reducing the space they have to stand on. Definitely not enough ground to get a running start and jump back. Alex backs into the safer part of the grounding.

ON THE LEDGE - NINA
Spots the lever that can close the pits.
Examines the scar on her leg: mostly healed.
Measures her distance from the ground. About a football field in length.
GULPS, closes her eyes. Leaps from the ledge. Down she rockets, SCREAMING all the way.

ALEX
Nina, wait!

IMPACT. She lands, tumbles. But in one piece.
Races to the lever, lifts it up.
The ground under Alex and Kinia gives way. They topple towards the pit.
As the compartments SEAL close. Alex and Kinia touchdown, safe and sound.
Nina sinks to her knees, relieved.
Tanaka comes to, sits up.
The Council is still present. Jecimol CLAPS. The rest fall in with him.

    JECIMOL
    Well done. Cerberus.

    ALEX
    Like that?

Yanks the main plug supplying all the cubes.

Still feeble, Kinia begins to come to.

    KINIA
    Daddy?

Alex grins.

    ALEX
    Happy birthday.

He hugs her as if holding on for dear life. Nina comes to their side. Firmly, he wraps his arms around them both.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - TIMELESS

Vincent sits alone, playing solitaire. Alex enters.

    VINCENT
    How’d it go?

    ALEX
    Survive one more week, and you’re a free man.

    VINCENT
    Not that, Kyrios. Never told me if you kicked his ass.

    ALEX
    Every piece. I want to thank you, Vincent. For understanding.

    VINCENT
    I’m still your father, your still my son.

Alex nods. Vincent gathers the cards, hands the deck to Alex.

    VINCENT
    I know it’s been years, but let’s see it.
Alex smirks. Grabs the card deck. Shuffles.

    ALEX
    Pick a card.

Vincent takes his pick – it’s the JACK OF SPADES.

    ALEX
    How much do you wanna bet that your card is what you see right now?

    VINCENT
    All the money in the world. I’m looking right at it.

Alex pulls a card from the deck.

    ALEX
    You sure?

    VINCENT
    Dead sure.

Quickly, Alex waves his card over Vincent’s card, snaps his fingers.

    ALEX
    Look again.

Vincent looks – it’s now the KING OF HEARTS.

    VINCENT
    Pretty nice. You know, Alex, after all that’s happened between me and you, I figured I’d be the last person on earth you’d leave your destiny to.

    ALEX
    You put the cards in my hands. Don’t forget that.

Alex drops the deck, exits. Vincent eyes the card.

    VINCENT
    That’s my boy. Definitely my boy.

Gathers the cards, reshuffles the deck.

    FADE OUT.