

Second Chance

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SKYLINE - NIGHT

Against pure darkness, two white lights slowly emerge. A woman is falling flailing her arms and legs as if she's falling from a rooftop or bridge. Only darkness can be seen all around her. She has wounds in her chest and on her body that resemble gunshot wounds.

WOMAN (V.O)

It's funny what you think about
when you start to fall to your
death. For me, I started thinking
about what life would be like if
I'd never been born.

The woman's body strikes the ground and jerks to an immediate stop. She lies motionless on the pavement as blood begins to run from the corners of her mouth. The wounds on her chest begin to stain her shirt even more.

WOMAN (V.O)

Some questions never get
answered.

INT. ARENA - DAY

An arena is buzzing with people placing wagers on fighters and the remnants of other fights. One fight ends with a brutal punch to the face. Money is exchanged by many people in the crowd. Trainers rush to gather the loser from the mat and carry him away. His body is lifeless but it can't be determined if he's just unconscious or dead.

The arena is cleared. An announcer with the voice of a car salesman takes over the loudspeaker.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Now, the main event. This is what
everyone's been waiting for. The
best of the best face off in the
center of the ring. Place your
bets now.

A dozen soldiers are dressed in full combat pads, clubs, and staffs. Each seems to have their own style, but they are dressed in a uniform that they have modified to fit their personal tastes. All soldiers are wearing dark colors but some are missing sleeves, others are wearing bandanas.

ADHARA BONNET, a 23 year old marine standing in the middle of the group stands out in the crowd. She has a look on her face that says she does what she wants. Adhara has a wide stance and holds a metal staff in the ready to strike position. She is muscular and her arms and shoulders are revealed in her dirt-covered, white tank top. She has fashioned her dark shirt into a headband.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Fighters! Let the battle begin!

The crowd roars as the combatants move toward each other quickly. The soldiers charge in landing quick hard blows to Adhara's face and she quickly begins to fight back and catches one of the soldiers across the face with the staff, slamming him down to the ground.

Then the fight gets scrappy. As he kicks, misses, and swings his fist wildly. She dodges the blows and sweeps his legs out from underneath him. She takes on a few more soldiers and quickly takes them all down.

She turns to see the final combatant standing across the arena. He's much larger than her. He laughs and begins to walk toward her. He walks faster and faster until he's running.

Adhara stands still. As he drops his shoulder and lunges at her in a spear position, she spins out of the way, and comes down with a hammer fist on the back of his head, knocking him unconscious with a blow to the base of his skull.

The crowd is stunned. Half are silent and half are cheering wildly. The announcer returns.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
That's it for tonight's training activities. Please return to your barracks immediately.

Adhara stands on her own for a few moments while she claims her staff and begins to exit.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara exits and a brawny man, GUNNERY SERGEANT MCKINNEY, is leaning against the wall and begins slowly clapping. He's wearing military fatigues and he's larger than life. He looks worn by life and combat. At 52, he's seen his fair share of brutality in the world. His voice has a rattle of death and violence. There is mystery in his eyes and wisdom that can't be measured. He is a real man's man, but universally seen as handsome.

MCKINNEY

(applauding)

Now that's what I call a training exercise!

McKinney reaches for the large hunting knife that's attached to his leg. A marine walking by in the background flinches as he pulls the knife from its sheath. Adhara stands statuesque. McKinney

MCKINNEY

How's my favorite marine?

ADHARA

(proud, almost cocky)

I'd be better if you gave me some competition.

MCKINNEY

You really think you'd still be breathing?

ADHARA

(offended)

Fuck off!

MCKINNEY

(laughing)

That's the Adhara I love!

Adhara doesn't respond immediately. She's considering McKinney's comments. She never fully understood their relationship and it shows.

ADHARA

Are you being an asshole for any particular reason, or is it just because you're an asshole?

MCKINNEY

I got a new soldier. Jared
Carter.

ADHARA

Good for you. He can figure out
how to polish your boots by his
damn self.

MCKINNEY

I want you to show him around,
you know, give him a (breathes in
deep, speaks in monosyllables)
warm welcome.

ADHARA

(sighs)

What's in it for me?

MCKINNEY

Oh nothing. He's just the first
Marine in your squad, Sergeant.

Adhara breathes a brief sigh of relief and almost smiles.
This is how she learns of her promotion.

MCKINNEY (CONT.)

Thought you might want to put
eyes on him first. Maybe your
hands, too.

McKinney winks at her. She rolls her eyes and grabs her
backpack, throwing it over her shoulder.

ADHARA

(irritated)

I will go meet him. But if I hear
you say some bullshit like that
again... I will that knife of
yours and introduce it to your
balls.

Adhara storms away. McKinney grins.

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

A gray steel door with the stenciled words "Frax Division"
swings open. Adhara walks into the barracks to a flurry of
activity. Marines are moving from place to place. A few of
them are playing cards or swapping stories.

JARED CARTER, a young (24), dark-haired soldier stands at 6'2" with short hair and a muscled physique. He stands in line behind other soldiers that are waiting to "check-in" with squad leaders. Adhara stands behind him.

ADHARA

Carter?

JARED

(salutes)

Ma'am, yes ma'am.

ADHARA

(dismissively)

That's enough of that. Put your hand down.

JARED

Maybe you could help me. I'm looking for a Sergeant Bonnet.

ADHARA

(laughs)

Yeah, I'll introduce you.

JARED

Great. I just need to grab my bag and my room assignme-

ADHARA

Just leave your bag there. I'll have them bring it to your room later.

She starts walking away and he reluctantly follows. He begins walking fast to keep up, a bit out of place.

JARED

So, where is this Sergeant Bonnet?

ADHARA

You're lookin' at her.

JARED

Wait. You're a--

ADHARA

Yeah. Your CO is a girl.

JARED

(nervous, studdering)

No-- I mean-- Yeah you are--
but--

ADHARA

I'm used to it.

Carter is still nervously walking and trying to come up with an appropriate response. They arrive to a new set of doors that is labeled "CRYNER CHAMBER." Before entering, Adhara pauses and turns to Carter.

ADHARA

Look, we're going to have to hit
the ground running. I'm not going
to harbor any hard feelings.
Let's just move on.

JARED

Of course. I mean, yes ma'am.

ADHARA

Brace yourself. You're about to
see some shit.

They enter the chamber.

INT. CHAMBER - MOMENTS LATER

They enter a dark room. The only light at first comes from the hallway as they open the door. The motion-activated lights begin to flicker on once they enter sensing their movement.

JARED

What is this place?

ADHARA

Don't ask too many questions.
I'll tell you what you need to
know.

JARED

Yes ma'am.

ADHARA

This is the Cryner Chamber.

JARED

And what's that mean?

ADHARA

Think of it as a repair center.

JARED

I see. A work room. Looks like we've got some serious gear.

ADHARA

(smirking)

To say the least.

There are large caliber weapons, futuristic weapons, experimental munitions and other unknowns in different areas of the room. Some of them are legs and arms of the robots that have yet to be revealed. The weaponry is in different stages of disrepair.

ADHARA

(walking off)

There's more to see. Keep up.

Jared scurries to close the distance. Adhara pushes through another door that is marked RESTRICTED AREA.

This room houses a small collection of 8 foot tall robots that are equipped for battle. They seem to be stand alone robots that are absolute killing machines.

ADHARA

This is our latest invention. The GINX TH9.

JARED

Does it work?

ADHARA

They're prototypes. But yeah. They work.

JARED

What do they do?

ADHARA

Hard to say just yet. McKinney hasn't let us...

JARED

Gunnery Sergeant McKinney?

ADHARA

Yes. He hasn't let me take these
for a ride yet.

JARED

What's the hold up?

Adhara looks away from Jared. She has to think about whether
or not to share.

ADHARA

My father was a Gunnery Sergeant.
He was in charge of the program.

JARED

Your dad is a gunny? That
explains a lot.

ADHARA

He WAS a gunny. He disappeared.

JARED

Oh. I'm sorry.

ADHARA

It's not your fault. We just
don't know what happened. Some
people think it was a prototype
malfunction. Who knows really?

An announcement interrupts the conversation.

WOMAN (V.O.)

All units report to the Canula
Chamber for a briefing.

JARED

Should we go?

ADHARA

(shakes her head,
begins walking)

They said all units.

Jared scurries after her.

INT. ATRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara and Jared enter the room from the back. Everyone is already standing with their respective unit, awaiting instruction. McKinney and a few other high ranking officials are standing at the front of the room.

McKinney looks at the room and gives a steel look at everyone. He is bothered, but not showing it to anyone that doesn't know him well. There is an exchange of glances between Adhara and Jared and Adhara and McKinney in which the unspoken words between each pair is left hanging.

MCKINNEY

We've got some fresh meat here.
Listen carefully. Just because
you survived basic training
doesn't mean you're a marine.
You'll become a marine over the
next few weeks. Some of you won't
make it.

He pauses as those words settle with the young marines in the room.

MCKINNEY

This is your first mission. The
government has labeled this a
training exercise, but don't get
caught up in the bullshit. This
is a mission. You must recover a
document for me. Do not damage
the document in any way or you
fail the mission and must return
to civilian life.

McKinney motions toward a woman who walks toward him and stops in front of him a few steps.

MCKINNEY

This is Staff Sergeant Amanda
Speller. Staff Sergeant Speller
will assign your weapons and give
you dossiers that have your
objectives and protocol outlined
in detail. Get some shut eye.
Your work begins at 0400 hours.
Dismissed.

The marines salute and begin to file out. As they file out of the room, McKinney calls to Adhara.

MCKINNEY

Bonnet!

Adhara and Jared both stop and turn.

ADHARA

(to Jared)

Go ahead. I'll catch up later.

Jared reluctantly goes through the back door, following the other soldiers to the barracks.

MCKINNEY

How's the newbie?

ADHARA

He'll be fine. A little wet behind the ears.

MCKINNEY

(sighs)

Baptism by fire. He'll have to learn on the mission.

ADHARA

What about the rest of my unit?

MCKINNEY

They'll be arriving soon enough.

ADHARA

Before this mission?

MCKINNEY

You'll be providing support for this mission.

ADHARA

Support? I'm support?

MCKINNEY

(grins)

That's where every CO starts. I know you want to be right in the action all the time. It just doesn't work that way.

ADHARA

(visibly upset)

How long am I on the sidelines?

MCKINNEY

Just for this first one. We are reassigning a few guys to you tomorrow.

ADHARA

How long until I have a full squad?

MCKINNEY

Tomorrow morning. You'll be a team of 4.

ADHARA

You're giving me 3 guys to command? I've been waiting for this for years.

MCKINNEY

It's a special ops unit. Trust me. This is what you have been waiting for.

ADHARA

What kind of special--

MCKINNEY

(raises his eyebrows)

Enough with the questions. Just give it a chance. You're dismissed soldier.

McKinney turns and heads the opposite direction leaving Adhara alone to reflect.

INT. SQUAD ROOM - NIGHT

Carter and other soldiers are gearing up. They are loading clips, adjusting stocks, assembling rifles, and generally bustling with gear.

Two other soldiers are sitting with Carter on the end of one bench in the locker room type environment. One is

JOHNSON, a massive guy with a scar across his face. He doesn't say much, but his stature is intimidating to almost anyone. The other is DRAXLER, a young marine wearing prescription goggles. He's skinny, almost too skinny to be a soldier. He seems like an outsider, and talks in a way that has no emotion in his voice. He speaks like a brainy person who thinks without feeling.

JARED

So, where are we going?

Johnson looks at Draxler.

DRAXLER

We are on support duty for the main squad. They are taking the risk. We are just providing cover and intel.

JARED

Another set of eyes?

DRAXLER

I suppose you could say that. There's almost no risk. This is a controlled environment. We have done this a thousand times before.

JARED

Not with this crew though.

DRAXLER

You're the new guy. We've worked with Bonnet for years. This isn't new. It's our next mission that will be a new experience for everyone.

Adhara enters. Johnson stands and hands her a rifle that he has assembled. He turns toward an open locker and grabs her flak jacket for her. She takes the gear silently and begins getting geared up for the flight.

JARED

Are you going to give us the rundown?

ADHARA

You were at the same briefing we were.

DRAXLER

The new guy is very inquisitive.

ADHARA

He asks too many questions.

JARED

Sorry. I haven't been doing this for the past 10 years.

DRAXLER

What was your previous assignment anyway?

JARED

Front lines. I saw action in the Taiwan conflict and during the expansion of the United Kingdom.

DRAXLER

That was gruesome. You've seen your fair share of violence and death.

JARED

I have.

JOHNSON

Then you're ready to join up with this squad.

Jared looks around at the others to see if there is any emotional response. Everyone continues to prepare weapons and get things prepared. Adhara, Johnson, and Draxler in unison shut their lockers. Adhara zips her last few pockets.

ADHARA

Load up.

Adhara exits, followed by Johnson and Draxler. Jared takes a look at the mirror on the inside of his locker. He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes. He slams the locker and turns to catch up with the squad.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara leads the team to toward the helicopter. The helicopter is already running with a pilot and co-pilot waiting to take off. Sergeant Speller stands by the helicopter holding a clipboard. Adhara walks by without acknowledging her at all. Johnson and Draxler salute Speller and board the helicopter. Jared stops to ask Speller a question.

JARED

Where are we going?

SPELLER

On a mission. You must be Carter.

JARED

How'd you know?

SPELLER

Because everything out of your mouth is a question.

Beat.

SPELLER

Load up Marine!

Jared gets on the helicopter.

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

Adhara straps in and waits for takeoff while Jared hurriedly gets in place. The helicopter takes off. Out the window,

they watch Speller writing on the clipboard and then turn to walk back into the barracks.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Trees bend as the helicopter lands in a clearing. Dirt flies off the ground. The helicopter lands smoothly.

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

The pilot reaches up and hits some switches to kill the engines.

PILOT

Corporal Bonnet, we have arrived.

Adhara shoots him a look.

PILOT

Sergeant Bonnet. My apologies.

ADHARA

(looks around at the others)

Let's go.

Johnson opens the door of the helicopter and Adhara is the first one out.

EXT. WOODED AREA - SAME TIME

The others follow Adhara out. The Pilot and co-pilot join the crew. All are armed as if they are ready for a fire fight. Adhara makes her way toward the wooded area and follows an less traveled path through the woods.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara emerges from the edge of a wooded area. She holds up a fist to signal to the others to stop moving. She waves toward Draxler to step forward. Draxler grabs a set of night vision goggles and looks around the compound. The warehouse seems to be abandoned. Draxler holds up his open hand. Adhara points toward the warehouse with two fingers. The squad begins moving toward the abandoned warehouse.

The squad approaches the warehouse from the side door. They silently move toward the door. As Jared grabs the doorknob, a scream rings out from inside the warehouse. It sounds like a young girl screaming in fear.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - SECONDS LATER

The squad enters the warehouse and begins to clear the space shining lights and pointing weapons in various directions.

They begin to move in tight formation through the warehouse. The screams dissipate, fading away. Adhara moves quicker, leaving the team behind. She heads to the far end of the warehouse floor where there is a small room.

INT. SMALL ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Adhara enters the small room alone, leaving the rest of the squad to continue clearing the warehouse without her. She steps to the center of the room where she sees a dark shaft. The shaft is deep and the bottom can't be seen. It must be 300 feet deep. She shines her light into the shaft with no results. Darkness descends far beyond her light. The screaming has stopped completely.

Lights come on in the room and throughout the warehouse. Gy.Sgt. McKinney is standing behind her.

MCKINNEY

What are you doing here,
Sergeant?

ADHARA

I was looking for the girl.

MCKINNEY

That was not the objective.

ADHARA

I'm just trying to do my job.

Jared enters the room and silently observes the rest of this conversation.

MCKINNEY

No, you're trying to do my job.
Your job is to lead this squad,
not leave them behind.

ADHARA

Yes, sir. It won't happen again.

MCKINNEY

You're right it won't happen
again.

McKinney draws his pistol and fires on Adhara. He fires into her chest three times. Adhara is stunned. She looks down, sees the wounds in her chest, and falls backward into the shaft.

JARED

What? Nooo!

Jared draws his weapon and fires on McKinney as McKinney is still turning and raising his pistol to fire on Jared. Jared is too fast for McKinney. He releases a burst of gun fire, catching McKinney in the head and neck. One bullet rips through McKinney's eye.

Jared immediately jumps into the shaft after Adhara.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK SHAFT - SAME TIME

Adhara falls in silence down the shaft. She falls alone in slow motion. The darkness takes over and she fades into nothingness.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Adhara is asleep in a hospital room. Her eyes open and she doesn't know where she is. Carter is standing beside her bed. He's been there by her side the entire time.

JARED

Hey. Do you know where you are?

ADHARA

Not a clue. The last thing I remember--

JARED

Let's not worry about that right now. Can you walk?

ADHARA

Yeah. I think I can.

Jared starts to help her out of the bed.

ADHARA

Did I... die?

JARED

We're not going to talk about that right now. We're gonna take you to the Chino-Welch.

ADHARA

(confused)

I've never used it before.

JARED

It's a little scary the first time. But, this won't actually be your first time.

ADHARA

Wait. I've already been in there?

JARED

A couple of times. This should be the last time.

ADHARA

Three times in the Chino-Welch? I must have been dead.

JARED

Don't worry about it.

Jared helps her into a metal box that looks almost like a coffin. There are lasers, lights, and a control panel on the outside of the machine. Jared looks down at her as she rests her body on the plain metal surface.

JARED

It feels like a cold, steel coffin, but there's nothing to worry about. It's safe.

ADHARA

But--

Jared shuts the lid before hearing her protest. Lights and lasers begin to scan her body and there is a whirring of electronic activity.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Adhara is sitting alone in an empty cafeteria. The facility is bright and clean with no people around. There are machines that deliver food with automaticity. The food looks like expensive food that is prepared by a chef, but there is no human presence around. She pokes at her food, having eaten some, but not eating everything.

JARED

(smiling)

Now, you're the one with all the questions.

Adhara is caught off guard. She did not notice him approach as she stabbed at her food.

ADHARA

(confused)

Yeah. I guess so. Where are we?

JARED

You're in the cafeteria.

ADHARA

I know that much. What is this place?

JARED

Honestly, I'm not sure what the official name of this place is. It's an off books facility run by the Department of Defense. We just call it the Ranch.

ADHARA

The Ranch?

JARED

Yeah. It's mostly used for recovery. After a mission goes wrong. And of course some research which we'll be talking about a little bit later.

ADHARA

McKinney. He--

JARED

You don't need to worry about McKinney anymore.

ADHARA

Is he--

JARED

As far as we know, yes. He's dead.

ADHARA

(looks down at her plate)

He was the last connection I had to my father.

JARED

Then I guess you should know that we think he killed your father.

ADHARA

(shocked)

What? Who are you?

JARED

I'm Jared Carter. I'm just not Private Carter. I'm a Gunnery Sergeant. I'm investigating your father's disappearance for the Marines. And I'm involved with furthering his work.

Two other people approach. It's the pilot, JOSHUA, and the co-pilot, TIFFANY, that flew the helicopter.

ADHARA

What happened to Johnson and Draxler?

JARED

They're fine. They're here with us, too.

Adhara sits in silence as she takes everything in. Tiffany and Joshua get food from the robotic machines and take a seat near Adhara.

JARED

This is still your unit. I'm still assigned to you. The Master Sergeant has not changed our mission.

ADHARA

What exactly is our mission?

JARED

You're going to take over the project that your father left behind.

ADHARA

The machines.

JARED

That was his previous project. He and McKinney had a falling out when he changed directions.

Adhara gets quiet as she thinks about the past few years working with the man who killed her father.

ADHARA

I knew there was more.

JARED

Your father realized that the remote control wasn't enough. The robots were expendable to the controller. So, he made super soldier suits. Basically, the soldier and machine became one, creating a nearly unbeatable soldier.

ADHARA

Why was McKinney against this?

JARED

McKinney ultimately wanted to control an entire squadron by himself. One man, a thousand robots.

ADHARA

A real psychopath.

JARED

I think it's time for you to see your father's work.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara and Jared enter a perfectly clean and bright control room. There is a large glass window overlooking a large room the size of a basketball gymnasium. On the floor there are two large robots. Inside the robots are Johnson and Draxler. Each man is inside a robo-suit controlling every movement.

ADHARA

Is that--?

JARED

Yes. Johnson and Draxler. The whole team is here.

ADHARA

Who else is here?

JARED

Right now? No one. This is our place.

ADHARA

Like a secret base? This is too much like a video game or something.

JARED

It's a bit unreal. But trust me... it's real. There are 3 other tac teams here with us, they are just on a training exercise right now.

Johnson and Draxler begin battling each other. Adhara looks surprised.

ADHARA

(nervous)

They're going to kill each other.

JARED

(amused)

Don't worry. It's training.

Relieved, she sits in a chair. Jared sits in a chair beside her.

ADHARA

So, how long have I been out?

JARED

About a month.

ADHARA

I've got some catching up to do.

JARED

I'm sure you'll be fine. You were the best with the prototypes. That's why McKinney kept you around. He was learning from you.

ADHARA

Why'd he want to kill me?

JARED

He was going to kill you at some point. We didn't know it would be that night. I'm not sure he did either. He just knew he was losing control of you.

ADHARA

He never had control.

JARED

We think he's dead. Now we have to focus on the bigger picture.

ADHARA

He wasn't working alone.

JARED

Just the opposite. He was building an army for the New World Order.

ADHARA

I thought they were defeated.

JARED

Just in hiding. The whole time, building this army. With the prototypes, they could have an army of 500 quickly turn into half a million soldiers.

ADHARA

And I helped him do it.

JARED

There's no way you could've stopped him. He's been doing this since he worked with your father.

Adhara watches as Draxler parries away from a blow from Johnson and uses his own momentum to pin him down and get the win.

JARED

(laughs)

The suits seem to level the playing field. Draxler has gotten the best of him for the past two weeks.

ADHARA

I want to get in a suit.

JARED

We can make that happen.

INT. SQUAD ROOM - DAY

Adhara is wearing a morph suit. Her body hasn't been on display like this before. Jared enters.

JARED

(sheepishly looks
away to avoid
staring)

H-hey. Sorry, I didn't realize--

ADHARA

You just haven't seen me like
this before. These morph suits
are pretty form-fitting.

JARED

Yeah, they are.

ADHARA

(smiling while
looking Jared up and
down)

They don't leave much to the
imagination.

JARED

No, they don't. If you're ready,
we can check these things out.

Jared leads Adhara through the door.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jared leads Adhara to the robosuit. It has been customized for her exact dimensions and size. He explains the controls as he helps her get in. As she gets in the suit and looks around at the various comm screens and other information displayed, Jared begins to explain them to her.

JARED

This is the GX-9. It's been designed specifically for the user. In this case, that's you. We used the printouts from your work with the prototypes to customize the controls. It should be second nature to you at this point. On the left, you'll see the weapons on board. On the right, you'll have the specific controls. It's already set up for simultaneous fire with two weapons which seemed to be your preference.

Jared walks toward his own robosuit.

JARED

Today, we'll be working without the guns though. This is just to see how the suits operate.

Jared jumps high into the air and lands just in front of Adhara.

JARED

Go ahead, try it out.

He pushes Adhara over. She reacts quickly and catches herself, springing from her hands into a double kick to the chest. Jared flies back.

ADHARA

I like these things.

JARED

You get a much better feel for the battle than in a remote booth.

ADHARA

This is like combining real action with the simulated controls.

JARED

That's the idea. The best of both worlds.

They battle each other. Jared lands a few powerful strikes to the chest. Adhara counters with some kicks to the shoulder. Jared thinks he is winning easily until Adhara ultimately gains the advantage. She sweeps his legs and rolls on top of his back. Jared laughs.

ADHARA

I think you should surrender.
This is the part where I start
ripping out cables and stuff and
ruin your suit.

JARED

(still laughing)
You got me. I told you it'd be
easy for you.

ADHARA

Let's get out of here. I want to
see the whole squad.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER IN THE DAY

The whole team is gathered around a table with their trays. The cafeteria seems to have more life than Adhara's initial visits. The presence of others seems to change the entire drab appearance. The grayness of things has been transformed.

JOHNSON

Glad to have you back, Adhara.

DRAXLER

Things were different without
you.

ADHARA

I'm glad to be back.

JARED

We'll be ready to roll out
tomorrow.

ADHARA

I know there's a facility nearby
where McKinney was storing
hundreds of prototypes. We need
to strike fast. Before they have
time to move things.

JARED

We need to be ready to move at
0600 hours.

TIFFANY

This is exciting. We've been
waiting for action for a month.

The team laugh and talk together as they prepare for the next day. They prepare weapons and body armor for a battle, the way typical soldiers would, but they also prepare by

checking the robots and machinery that ensure everything runs smoothly.

ACT TWO

INT. HELICARRIER - DAY

The team are boarding the flight in order to attempt the mission. They are looking at maps and diagrams that show the facility. There are marks on where prototypes might be located with numbers and crews divided up.

ADHARA

When we arrive, we will be
attempting an all out assault.

JARED

We split into two groups and
attack through both entries of
the facility.

TIFFANY

No one gets in or out.

JOHNSON

A smash job! I like this!

DRAXLER

(rolls his eyes)

What about captives?

Adhara and Jared exchange looks. They seem to know more than they are saying.

ADHARA

If anyone surrenders, we will
consider that after the battle.

JARED

If someone surrenders use a non-fatal electropulse. We will deal with them after the assault is finished.

The helicARRIER which is autopiloted now speaks to the crew.

HELICARRIER

Please prepare for landing. We are arriving at our destination in approximately 2 minutes.

The team gets into their mechsuits and prepares for the assault.

EXT. LANDING SITE - MOMENTS LATER

The team is exiting the helicARRIER. As they exit, the helicARRIER powers down completely and goes into sleep mode, which places it into a camouflage situation as well.

JARED

Adhara and I will attack from the front. The rest of you will breach the rear.

The group breaks into the two small teams and travels through the wooded area in different directions.

Jared and Adhara have a moment to finally speak about something in privacy, and they take full advantage. Though they are in their mechsuits, they set their comm devices to speak to just each other.

ADHARA

I'm nervous.

JARED

About McKinney?

ADHARA

I know too much now.

JARED

What's there to know? He killed your father and he tried to kill you.

ADHARA

But he practically raised me. For years, he was my father.

JARED

It's a pretty sick betrayal.

Silence lingers as Adhara processes the new information that is setting in for her.

ADHARA

I don't know what will happen if I come face to face with him. I am processing too many emotions.

JARED

When the time comes, your instincts will take over. You're trained.

The two of them arrive at their destination and switch their comm units back to the whole group.

ADHARA

Bravo, are you in position?

JOHNSON

Roger that, Alpha. Locked and loaded.

JARED

Prepare to breach. On my count.

Adhara and Jared approach the front entry. They begin a jetted sprint toward the doors.

JARED

3... 2... 1...

EXT. WAREHOUSE - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Bravo team breaches the back door at the same time. Johnson leads the group through the doors and takes a blast to the chest. Draxler is directly behind him and side steps his flying body. He does a combat roll and comes up shooting tactical shots in various directions taking out numerous threats.

Tiffany enters reluctantly after taking several quick breaths. She runs around the corner and enters the room with weapons drawn only to observe the smoke clearing while Draxler stands confidently and looks at her calmly. Johnson re-enters the room.

JOHNSON

Well, shit. I missed the fun.

DRAXLER

There will be plenty more. That's just the initial security team.

TIFFANY

There's more?

JOHNSON

I hate these damn suits. It makes it look like I don't know what the hell I'm doing.

DRAXLER

(patting him on the shoulder)

Fight smarter, not harder.

Draxler smiles and leads the group through the entry way and into the corridor to face another wave of soldiers.

INT. WAREHOUSE FRONT ENTRY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Adhara and Jared have just finished clearing the front room of any threats. Jared stands as he finishes off a soldier.

JARED

Bravo team, what's your status?

The Bravo team responds from off screen.

DRAXLER (O.S.)

Entry cleared. We are proceeding into the corridor.

JARED

Roger that. We are proceeding into the front corridor now.

Jared waves his arm to signal Adhara to resume formation. They approach the hall toward the center of the complex.

TIFFANY (O.S.)

Holy shit!

ADHARA

(wide-eyed)

Yeah, we see it.

As they enter the complex, they realize that it is simply a huge warehouse where hundreds of prototypes are stored. As they have entered the hall at opposite ends, the robots begin powering on. None of these bots have humans inside, they are all robot soldiers.

The battle begins in the warehouse facility. The 5 soldiers take on a fleet of robots in complete and utter chaos. At one point, Adhara takes out a bot that seems to have a kill shot on Jared.

Tiffany is knocked down at due to her apprehension to fire, but Johnson rips a robot apart by punching it through the back. He throws another robot through a group of robots knocking them all down. Draxler methodically takes out countless robots. As the numbers of bots dwindle away, the robots seem to shift their commands from fight to flight.

The robots all begin to exit the facility by flying through the roof. They attempt to escape as quickly as possible. A few of them are shot down in their attempt to flee. However, more than a hundred of the robots are able to flee the warehouse leaving the 5 heroes standing amongst a mess of robotic body parts.

TIFFANY

Where do you think they're going?

ADHARA

There's probably another facility. I have a feeling this is just the beginning.

JARED

We've known that he's been doing this for years. If he's been able to clone the programming, there could be thousands.

JOHNSON

I'm not always a silver lining kind of guy, but at least we'll have plenty of ass to kick.

DRAXLER

Something tells me this is not going to be a few missions. This could be more like an ongoing armed conflict.

ADHARA

That just means we'll have to be ready.

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

McKinney is surrounded by Marines. He has a look of disgust on his face due to his most recent loss of a facility. There is a buzz around the room as they recover from the events of the evening.

MARINE

Sergeant, we have moved the prototypes to the another location.

MCKINNEY

(nonplussed)

Make sure the facility is secure.
Make sure they are all secure.

MARINE

Sir, yes sir.

The Marine runs off while McKinney stares at the screen in front of him. Another Sergeant enters the room behind McKinney. DONALDSON is a few years older than McKinney, but seems less war ridden. He is a Master Sergeant and seems to have more of a "desk job" in his later years. He seems to be in a disagreement with McKinney.

DONALDSON

Things are getting out of hand.

MCKINNEY

It's under control.

DONALDSON

You sure about that?

MCKINNEY

Just a rogue terrorist cell.
That's all.

DONALDSON

They didn't look like terrorists
to me.

MCKINNEY

(confrontational)

What are you trying to say?

DONALDSON

(unfazed)

You said this wasn't personal.

MCKINNEY

It's not. It's business.

DONALDSON

Then why is a dead soldier
haunting you from the grave?

MCKINNEY

Parlor tricks. It was a god damn
terrorist cell.

DONALDSON

She sure moves like Bonnet.

MCKINNEY

(quiet)

It's not her. She's dead.

DONALDSON

Because you saw her die?

MCKINNEY

Yes.

DONALDSON

The way she's come back from the
dead, I almost think you might've
been the one to put a bullet in
her.

MCKINNEY

(agitated, defensive)

Watch your god damn mouth! She
was like a daughter to me!

DONALDSON

(straight faced)

You should be the one watching
your god damn mouth. If you fuck
this up it'll be the last thing
you fuck up.

Donaldson turns quickly and exits the room in haste. McKinney grabs a paperweight from the desktop nearby and throws it into a display screen.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

The group has assembled in the training room. Adhara addresses the rest of the group while walking in front of them. They are in formation.

ADHARA

We have to be smarter and faster
than the enemy. Strength is over
rated. No offense Johnson.

Johnson raises his eyebrows and rolls his eyes.

JOHNSON

I'm more than just brute force.

ADHARA

I know that. I just didn't want
you to take anything personally.

At this point, there are images of the group training. Tiffany obviously starts off weak and progresses to become a better fighter. The group faces off in one on one combat as well as two on ones and other scenarios. Eventually, they are graduating to simulated combat with entire battalions successfully. During this sequence, Adhara's voiceover continues.

ADHARA

We will face an enemy like none we've ever seen before. Many of these machines will be controlled remotely. Some will be completely autonomous. We will be facing trained combat experts with a knowledge of robotics that can make the difference. To defeat them, we have to learn programming, robotics, combat, advanced tactical maneuvers. We have to become the world's elite team of robot assassins.

We return to a closeup of Adhara.

ADHARA

So, let's go kick some ass, guys.

INT. WAR ROOM - DAY

McKinney and his inner circle are getting things in place. They are having planning meetings to discuss the next stages of defending the prototypes from future attacks.

MARINE

Sergeant, we have secured all the facilities.

MCKINNEY

Good. I know they'll be attacking soon. What do we know they know?

MARINE

(confused)

Sir?

MCKINNEY

In war, you have to know what your enemy knows. Some people say think like the enemy. I want to know what the enemy knows. Then I can think beyond what the enemy is thinking.

MARINE

We believe they have found 5 of our facilities. The other 10 are so remote that many of our own team don't know where they are.

MCKINNEY

Let's keep it that way. They'll be attacking. As early as tonight. Make sure all the facilities are on high alert.

MARINE

Sir, yes sir.

MCKINNEY

I want blood this time. Nothing less will do.

MARINE

Sir, yes sir.

The marine exits in order to deliver the updated commands.

INT. HELICARRIER - NIGHT

The team are gearing up for another assault. They are locking into their machines and beginning to turn on their comm units.

ADHARA

Fall in, soldiers!

JOHNSON

Locked and loaded.

DRAXLER

Ready for combat.

TIFFANY

Definitely ready.

JARED

Good. This is another facility we've found. We know now that he's got at least 5 of these facilities.

ADHARA

If we take out this fleet, we will have access to his internal systems. We could potentially take his entire army offline before he has a chance to attack anyone.

DRAXLER

The typical save the world kinda stuff. Right?

ADHARA

Actually? Yeah. Exactly that.

JARED

We know he was planning to use this army to leverage the UN for control over all world militaries.

TIFFANY

If he got the UN to yield to his authority, we really would have a New World Order.

ADHARA

Let's make sure that doesn't happen.

JOHNSON

Just get me close enough and we won't have anything to worry about.

JARED

I still don't like this idea.

ADHARA

We've trained for this moment. We're ready.

HELICARRIER

Prepare for landing in less than 30 seconds.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The team stands in front of a warehouse. They observe the facility and notice that things are eerily quiet this time. There is not the usual buzz that happens around the facility. This is a typical warehouse, but there seems to be no security.

ADHARA

I don't like this. We're sticking together this time.

JARED

We breach from the front.

JOHNSON

Smash and bash! I call dibs on
the door.

The team begins moving toward the door. Johnson is excited, the others approach cautiously. Johnson looks back at Adara. She signals for him to enter. Johnson shoulder charges the door and it gives easily. There are no armed guards at all. A second later, Johnson pokes his head back out of the door and waves the others over.

JOHNSON

Come on. It looks abandoned.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The team enters the warehouse to find that the desks and office area are completely deserted. They move quietly through the area. Draxler finds the power and turns on the lights and computers. Things fire up and everything looks normal and functional.

JARED

Over here!

The team joins him. He has found the prototypes. Just like in the previous facility, there are hundreds of prototypes. This time, they have not been booted. There is no battle ensuing.

ADHARA

This is weird.

DRAXLER

I think we caught them off guard.

TIFFANY

Could we be so lucky?

The team all start to smile. They feel as though they have won a big victory.

JOHNSON

Didn't even have to fire a shot.
It's a bummer, but sometimes it's
nice to have a day off.

They move about the facility, leaving Adhara alone in the center of the room to think.

ADHARA
(to herself)
Could it be so easy?

Tiffany and Draxler are booting up the computers and looking through the programming and other technical information for the prototypes.

DRAXLER
It looks like they just took this facility offline this morning.

TIFFANY
Yes. It says they were entering sleep mode. I have a memo here that orders it.

JARED
Let me see that.

Jared reads the memo over Tiffany's shoulder.

JARED
McKinney authorized this shutdown. It's a complete evacuation. He says to take the facilities offline due to an imminent threat.

JOHNSON
So he is surrendering?

JARED
Looks that way. He's listed the other 3 facilities on this memo, too.

ADHARA
Pack up everything. We need to take it all.

TIFFANY
I'll call in a procurement team. Should I send them to the other facilities?

JARED
Send a tac team to check them out first. Let's not get stupid.

ADHARA

McKinney definitely plays head games. This doesn't feel like a head game though.

DRAXLER

(looking at computer)

There doesn't seem to be any hidden commands on here.

JOHNSON

What do you mean?

DRAXLER

I thought maybe it was a trap. Like as soon as we got the prototypes to our facility, they would become active or something.

ADHARA

Are you sure?

DRAXLER

Yes. They've all been taken offline. They have to be reconfigured.

JARED

Like a complete reboot?

DRAXLER

Basically.

ADHARA

This is not a surrender.

JARED

Then how do you explain it?

ADHARA

He's going forward with whatever plan he has come up with. He's just changing tactics. There's no way he's giving up what he's worked for for so long.

JARED

Either way, I think this calls for a bit of a celebration.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER THAT NIGHT

Glasses clink together. The group is celebrating their win. They have put an end to the prototype army, at least in their minds. The worries about the remainder of the plans are not on their minds anymore.

Johnson slams back his drink and slams the glass down.

JOHNSON

To victory!

TIFFANY

(struggling to finish
a drink, coughs)

Whooo! We won, guys. I don't know
what we won, or how we won... but
it's over.

ADHARA

(too serious)

It's not over.

DRAXLER

(raising a glass)

We know it's not over. Just
relax. Have a little fun for once
in your life.

JARED

(puts arm around
Adhara)

Lighten up. Let's just have a
good time tonight.

ADHARA

(relaxing)

It's all about the small
victories.

JARED

Exactly.

The team enjoys drinks and music. They start to dance and get a little wild. They play games and laugh together. A few other techs and soldiers join the celebration. Bottles are emptied and the music gets louder. Jared and Adhara begin dancing together.

ADHARA

You're right. We should be having
fun.

JARED

Just for tonight. Back to work tomorrow. I promise.

ADHARA

Shhhh! Let's talk about that tomorrow.

JARED

Alright, alright.

ADHARA

I never got to finish telling you thank you.

JARED

For what?

ADHARA

You saved my life.

JARED

I was just doing my job.

ADHARA

But you made sure I survived. I should be dead.

JARED

But you're not. And neither is McKinney. I should've killed him.

ADHARA

We'll get him. Don't worry about that now.

JARED

Damn right we'll get him.

ADHARA

Hey, let's get out of here. I want to show you something.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara and Jared enter the control room for the robosuits. She starts to run her hands across the controls.

ADHARA

(over her shoulder to
Jared)

You know, I didn't know my father
that well.

JARED

I'm sorry to hear that.

ADHARA

I'm not looking for pity. I'm
just telling you something.

JARED

Sorry. Continue.

ADHARA

Working with these suits, I feel
like I know him now.

JARED

I can understand that.

ADHARA

I mean, I know what kind of man
he was. Now that I see what he
was doing, I understand him
better.

JARED

What do you think he was trying
to accomplish?

ADHARA

I know he wanted to end war.

JARED

By building the most powerful
weapons in the world?

ADHARA

(looking over the
floor where the
suits are stored)

Weapons we wouldn't have to use.
I think he saw beyond these
suits.

JARED

You mean how they could help make
us so powerful that we couldn't
fight each other.

ADHARA

More than that. I think he was developing these suits for beyond war.

JARED

Why do you say that?

ADHARA

Think about using these suits to finally get to Mars. I mean, we've talked about it for centuries now.

JARED

They can't sustain flight--

ADHARA

I don't mean like that. They can do things more than combat. They can't sustain flight, but they can sustain life.

JARED

(thinking)

Right. So they could actually be the breakthrough that we need to make everything happen.

ADHARA

Exactly. My father was more than a soldier. He was always thinking steps ahead of everyone else.

JARED

That's what makes you such a great soldier. You have the same mind.

ADHARA

I guess so. But now I understand it. It's not about winning a fight or even a battle.

JARED

It's more than that.

ADHARA

It's about changing the world. It's about ending war for good. Making the world a better place.

JARED

So you think your dad made these weapons to change the world.

ADHARA

I know he did.

JARED

Now that I'm thinking about it that way, I can think of all kinds of uses for these machines.

Jared is looking out the window admiring the machines, while Adhara is behind him.

ADHARA

I didn't bring you here just to show you that. I wanted you to see this.

Adhara has removed her shirt, leaving just her bra on. In the center of her chest, there is a scar from where she was shot.

Adhara takes Jared's hand and places it over her scar.

ADHARA

This is what is left of the wounded soldier you saved. Now, I'm different.

JARED

Different how?

ADHARA

Now, I see an end to all this. I want all this to end, so that I can have a life that is worth living.

JARED

What we're doing means something.

ADHARA

I know that. And I only know that because of you.

JARED

Adhara, we can't--

ADHARA

No, we can. That's what I'm telling you. After all this is over, I want this to matter.

JARED

It does matter.

ADHARA

You're right. But it only matters if we move on from all this.

JARED

I want to move on with you.

Adhara shoves him playfully.

ADHARA

That's my line!

They both laugh a little. Then they begin passionately kissing. The two make love for the first time. From the intensity, it seems to be the first time they've been with another person in a long time, possibly ever. They are intimate with each other in a way that is new and passionate.

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

McKinney and several of his soldiers are in a meeting around a table. The room is dark and there is a secretive vibe to the meeting.

MCKINNEY

We've surrendered the facilities they know about. Now is our opportunity.

MARINE

Sir, we are ready for phase 2 of the attack.

MARINE 2

We are preparing to seize the confiscated prototypes now.

MARINE

First, we are launching an attack on American soil. Small scale.

MCKINNEY

This is just to bait them, right?

MARINE

Yes, sir. We will have 4 teams standing by for support. The whole purpose is to weaken their forces.

MCKINNEY

Perfect. Let's put these plans in motion.

MARINE 2

As the attack is underway, we will seize the prototypes from their facility.

MCKINNEY

Great. Remember, absolute silence about this is crucial. The government doesn't know what we're up to, so we have no other support.

The entire group nods in agreement.

MCKINNEY

Dismissed!

The group departs the room in order to make the arrangements for the next phase of the attack.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Adhara wakes up and rolls over to see that Jared is no longer in bed with her. She shakes her head. As she sits up, Jared is standing there with a cup of coffee held out for her.

JARED

Two sugars, two creams, right?

ADHARA

(smiling)

I thought you left.

JARED

Just to get us coffee.

ADHARA

I could get used to this.

JARED

I hope you do. I hope we do.

The two sip on their coffee. Adhara gets out of the bed and joins him by the window where they look out at the jungle that surrounds them.

ADHARA

I don't want to ruin the moment,
but we have to get back to work
today.

JARED

I'm already on it. The team is
assembling at 0800 hours.

ADHARA

I know McKinney is planning
something. Probably today.

JARED

What do you think he's doing?

ADHARA

It's got to have something to do
with the prototypes I'm sure.

JARED

We can check them out thoroughly
with our techs.

ADHARA

You said 0800 hours?

JARED

Yeah.

ADHARA

That gives us 30 minutes.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - 30 MINUTES LATER

The team has assembled. They are joined by two computer techs and 3 other tactical teams. Each consists of 5 Marines. The training room is fully lit with several of the prototypes set up. There are a few prototypes from each facility which doesn't need to be stated directly.

TECH 1

There seems to be no malware of any kind on these prototypes. We've checked for encrypted files, hidden partitions, and everything we can think of. It looks like they've truly been abandoned.

TECH 2

There's nothing. These are perfectly good machines. There is one problem though.

ADHARA

What's that?

TECH 1

We don't have the software to control them.

JARED

How do we not have the software? We developed them here.

TECH 2

(cutting in)

We actually developed the mech suits. We never intended them to be fully operational without a human pilot.

DRAXLER

(from across the room)

That's a safety measure I would guess. I have an idea though.

TECH 1

What's that?

DRAXLER

I have been working on a program. I originally developed it for Raspberry Pi. I was going to make drones.

Both techs look at each other like there's an inside joke.

DRAXLER

Laugh if you want. The point is that this program could work to get these guys online. I doubt it would make them useful for combat, but we could at least see their functionality.

TECH 2

I think we have a pretty good idea about what they can do.

JARED

Yeah, we've got that figured out.

A Marine enters the training room in a hurry. He approaches Jared and the other squad leaders.

MARINE

There is an attack in progress.

JARED

What kind of attack?

MARINE

It appears to be some of the prototypes. They are attacking Washington, D.C.

JARED

Washington? That makes absolutely no sense.

ADHARA

Let's get to the briefing room. Now. This is McKinney.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

The squad leaders enter the room. HALL is about the same age as Jared, but shorter and a bit stocky. He seems solid, but looks like the type of person you could depend on in a fight. PORTER is tall and slim and doesn't look like much of a fighter, but he does seem like he'd be someone you'd want to have a drink with. SIMONSEN is older and seems more battle ridden.

ADHARA

This is McKinney. This is intentional. He planned this whole thing.

JARED

Did they check the prototypes for trackers?

SIMONSEN

This is McKinney. He's a maniacal asshole.

ADHARA

You know McKinney?

SIMONSEN

Yeah I know him. He is a real son of a bitch. He always did this sort of thing.

ADHARA

What sort of thing?

SIMONSEN

We always called it a rope a dope. He'd give the enemy enough to think they'd won, then he'd punch 'em right in the teeth.

JARED

And it worked?

SIMONSEN

Every damn time. I know this is part of his plan.

ADHARA

My thoughts exactly. Is there any way that he could link the attack with us?

PORTER

No. There are no trackers. That was my first question for the techs. I thought it was a con job from the get go.

HALL

I had my guys check everything before we loaded a damn one of those prototypes. There's nothing they can get us for.

ADHARA

What exactly do we do here?

PORTER

What do you mean?

ADHARA

I mean I'm new. I know what's going on here, but what does the rest of the world think we are doing here?

PORTER

Counterintelligence.

ADHARA

Is there any way they would think of us with this attack at all?

HALL

(looking around at
the others)

Not that I can think of.

ADHARA

Is there any way that McKinney knows who we are? Do you think he knows that it's this counterintelligence unit that is catching up with him?

SIMONSEN

Doubtful. It wouldn't matter anyway. He's never going to knock on the front door. He always takes the enemy off guard.

JARED

I hate to be pushy, but we really need to take care of this attack.

HALL

We need more details.

PORTER

I've got the briefing info. It seems that the attack is in tourism areas only.

SIMONSEN

The monuments. What a smart bastard.

ADHARA

Why the monuments?

SIMONSEN

It's to invoke fear in the hearts of the every day man. This isn't a military attack. It's a public attack.

JARED

What else would he do?

SIMONSEN

There won't be any casualties. He's methodical. He's not a psychopath.

PORTER

So what's our play?

ADHARA

My team is going in. Your teams will wait in support.

SIMONSEN

It feels like an ambush.

ADHARA

That's why we're going in alone. I think it is an ambush.

HALL

Are you suicidal? Why give him what he wants?

ADHARA

We let him think that. Instead, the other teams are waiting to counter attack the ambush.

SIMONSEN

It's the smartest play we've got.

CUT TO:

INT. GEAR ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Adhara and her team are gearing up for an attack. The mech suits are being prepared and weapons are being loaded. Ammunitions are being checked and rechecked.

CUT TO:

INT. HELICARRIER - SECONDS LATER

Adhara and her team are preparing their comm units as they approach the landing area.

HELICARRIER

Prepare for landing in less than one minute.

JARED

Don't wait for us. Return to headquarters and await further instructions. Understood?

HELICARRIER

Affirmative.

The conversation about tactics begin.

ADHARA

When we arrive, we need to fight as a team.

JARED

We form a circle, back to back. No blind spots.

TIFFANY

Is this a suicide mission?

ADHARA

We have reason to believe that this is an ambush.

JOHNSON

Hell yeah! This is my kinda fight.

DRAXLER

Where is our backup?

JARED

The other three tac teams are standing by to provide cover.

ADHARA

They'll be in as soon as we get sight of any other squads.

Tiffany is starting to breathe hard. Johnson and Draxler try to calm her down.

JOHNSON

What's wrong kid?

TIFFANY

I don't want to die.

DRAXLER

You do realize we could've died on any of the other missions, right?

TIFFANY

Yeah, it just didn't seem likely.

JOHNSON

I'm here. It's not likely that anyone is going to die.

TIFFANY

That's reassuring.

JOHNSON

They'll have to kill me first, before they kill anyone else on my team.

DRAXLER

He's the tough guy. I'm just going to tell you that the odds are in our favor.

TIFFANY

How do you figure?

DRAXLER

The mech suits. I haven't seen anyone die in one yet.

The helicARRIER jerks to a stop. The team reluctantly departs in a grouped formation.

EXT. LINCOLN MEMORIAL - DAY

The team exits the helicARRIER. The helicARRIER leaves. There are prototypes everywhere. The Lincoln Memorial has been destroyed.

The team begins to attack the prototypes. Johnson and Draxler are taking out robots methodically with Adhara and Jared bringing the flanks and Tiffany in the rear. They are ever watchful for incoming attacks.

As the team moves toward the monuments, they are picking off the prototypes quickly. Johnson is separated from the group when he sees a civilian running toward the statue that is the Lincoln Memorial. He chases after him. The rest of the team stays together.

ADHARA

Hold formation. Let him secure
the civilian.

The others reluctantly follow her orders.

As he disappears from sight, the rest of the prototypes immediately lose power and fall to the ground lifeless.

INT. LINCOLN MEMORIAL - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The civilian turns with a phone toward Johnson. Johnson has his weapon drawn. The civilian starts to scream.

JOHNSON

Shut up! I'm here to help you.

CIVILIAN

No! He's trying to kill me! Who
are you people?

JOHNSON

I'm a Marine. I'm here to help.

CIVILIAN

Get away from me you monster!

Johnson is confused and continues to look clear the area with his weapon drawn. The Civilian slips through an unseen door in the rear of the monument and Johnson is left standing alone.

The rest of the team comes to him. They approach with caution as he still seems to be in battle mode.

ADHARA

Johnson, stand down!

TIFFANY

The area is clear.

Johnson lowers his weapon. He stands in front of the Lincoln Memorial statue. We get a size comparison for the first time. In the mech suit, Johnson is above the president's knees, standing at roughly 10 feet tall.

JARED

Where's the civilian?

JOHNSON

He... got away.

JARED

Got away?

JOHNSON

Yeah, he just filmed me with his phone and ran from me.

ADHARA

Shit!

JARED

What?

ADHARA

That's the whole point. Did he see your face?

JOHNSON

Yeah, he filmed me straight on.

ADHARA

They've got us now. He knows who we are.

DRAXLER

More importantly, the media is going to know who we are. At least Johnson. The rest of us, too unless our records have been doctored.

ADHARA

Doubtful. I think that was his play the whole time.

JOHNSON

Did you take care of the other prototypes?

JARED

They powered off when you entered here.

JOHNSON

Then it was definitely part of his plan.

ADHARA

What did he say?

JOHNSON

He wouldn't speak to me. He just kept screaming. He made sure to film me and then slipped out a back door. (pause) Dammit!

ADHARA

What?

JOHNSON

I had my weapon drawn the whole damn time.

ADHARA

Let's get back to headquarters. This is going to get ugly. Fast.

JARED

I already signaled for the helicARRIER.

Adhara puts her hand up to the side of her head and starts talking.

ADHARA

Bravo, Charlie, Delta. Stand
down. Return to HQ.

Muffled radio communication.

ADHARA

I don't have time to explain.
Reconvene at 0400 hours.

The team exits the monument.

INT. WAR ROOM - DAY

McKinney and his team are gathered around the table. They watch a video on a screen. The footage is first person footage from the vantage point of the civilian. You hear his screaming. Johnson's words have been overdubbed.

JOHNSON

When I find you, I will kill you.
We're here to take over the
United States. And we will take
over. The UN will be next.

The video stops.

MCKINNEY

Get this to all the media
outlets. Right now. We have to
get this out there. Give them all
the information they request.
Dockets on Johnson and his entire
squad.

MARINE

Even Bonnet?

MCKINNEY

Especially Adhara Bonnet?

MARINE

(typing into a laptop)
Anything else you want me to
provide?

MCKINNEY

Doctor their records to show that they went rogue on their last mission. We suspect they are working with a multinational terrorist group.

MARINE

(still typing, then stops)

Done. I'll get these out.

MCKINNEY

Good. Now let's move onto the next phase of the project. We are going to attack them. Did we get a location from the helicARRIER?

MARINE 2

Sir, yes sir. We have their location.

MCKINNEY

Where are they?

MARINE 2

It's a counterintelligence facility outside Blacksburg.

MCKINNEY

Sneaky sons of bitches.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Johnson and the rest of the soldiers are breaking down all the equipment from the day. Draxler and Tiffany are missing from the group at the moment.

JOHNSON

(slams mech suit shut)

Dammit. I can't believe this bullshit.

MARINE

Forget about it. We win some, we lose some.

JOHNSON

Not me I don't. I win 'em all. And they got me this time.

Draxler and Tiffany enter the room.

DRAXLER
Well, we are fucked.

JOHNSON
What happened?

Draxler holds up a small device.

JOHNSON
What's that?

TIFFANY
A tracker.

DRAXLER
They know where we are.

JOHNSON
Then there's a chance we get to
do battle right here!

DRAXLER
This is not the best place for a
standoff.

JOHNSON
Right. But it sure beats the shit
out of the streets of DC.

TIFFANY
Good point.

Draxler gets up to leave.

JOHNSON
Where are you going?

DRAXLER
To get the techs and to tell
Adhara about this.

TIFFANY
They're in a meeting!

DRAXLER
(ignoring, walks out)
This is more important than the
meeting.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Adhara, Jared, Hall, Simonsen, and Porter are all gathered around a conference table. They are discussing the events that have just unfolded before them.

SIMONSEN

I knew he was up to something.
How long until the media has the
footage?

PORTER

They've probably already got it.

HALL

I'll check now.

Hall begins typing away on a laptop, searching for information online. Draxler breaks into the room unannounced.

PORTER

Draxler, you can't just--

DRAXLER

(holding up the
tracker)

This is important. They know
where we are.

JARED

What is that?

DRAXLER

A tracker I just pulled off the
helicarrier.

SIMONSEN

He's got us. Now it's just a
matter of time.

HALL

Hate to ruin the moment, but
uh...

Hall flips around the laptop he was using to search the web. The video is online already. The headline reads "Ex-Marine Behind Capitol Attack."

ADHARA

Draxler, I need you to leave.

DRAXLER

I'm planning on it. I have to get with the techs anyway. I just wanted you all to know that we're fucked.

Draxler exits. The others sit in silence for a few seconds.

ADHARA

(calmly)

This is not the end. This just means that they got the better of us.

SIMONSEN

Now you're starting to sound like McKinney. He was never willing to give up a fight.

JARED

So what do we do now?

ADHARA

Chances are, he's going to bring the fight to us.

HALL

Obviously.

ADHARA

So we beat him to it.

PORTER

You want us to attack a military base?

ADHARA

No. We are going to attack another monument.

JARED

What? Adhara, this can't be a real idea.

ADHARA

It's the only thing he won't expect. If he calls us terrorists, let's be terrorists. He expects us to be on the defensive. Let's go offensive.

SIMONSEN

By God, she's right. She's a god damn genius.

PORTER

Yeah, that actually makes sense. He wants us to sit here and fortify our position. Instead, we should attack.

HALL

(slowly, as if he realizes it)

But attack somewhere else.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The drab computer lab is full technology but no color. It looks like a place that is designed for work and no fun. Draxler and the techs are staring at the tracking device.

TECH 1

There's no way we can hack it. He's already got the location.

DRAXLER

I know. I'm thinking about my program.

TECH 2

What about your program?

DRAXLER

Have you looked at it?

TECH 1

If by "look at it" you mean have I uploaded it, improved it, and figured out how to get it to run an entire army of militarized attack robots, then yes. I've looked at it.

DRAXLER

Wait, what?

TECH 2

You were right. Your programming was basic, but it did have all the requirements for mass producing weaponry.

DRAXLER

(elated)

Excellent. We might be able to defend this place.

TECH 1

We haven't uploaded it into the robots yet. Just this one.

Behind them, there is a mechsuit that has been slightly modified and is operational without a human.

DRAXLER

What can it do?

TECH 2

It understands weaponry and hand-to-hand combat, but it's pretty basic. It's not going to beat real soldiers.

TECH 1

At least not a lot of them.

DRAXLER

That's fine. We just need as many guns as possible.

TECH 1

(confused)

Earlier, did you say "defend this place"?

DRAXLER

Yes, I did.

TECH 2

Are we under attack?

DRAXLER

Not yet.

The techs look at each other?

TECH 2

Yet?

TECH 1

Hey look, I'm more of a tech. I'm not a combat kind of guy. I think I should probably get out of here.

TECH 2

Yeah, I don't think we're going to be much use in a fight.

DRAXLER

Not gonna happen. You're key to the whole thing. We need you now.

TECH 1

I don't like this.

DRAXLER

It's easy. You'll get used to it. I used to be a computer nerd just like you. I still am actually. I just know how to fire a gun.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The commanders have reached an agreement on a plan. This is now where we get the quick summary of how things are going to go down.

PORTER

So, we attack randomly in New York City.

HALL

At the same time, we fortify this place as best we can.

SIMONSEN

And then we go on the offensive against them on as many fronts as possible.

JARED

That's right. Once they are split, we will have them spread thin.

ADHARA

We have to assume they have more mechs. But I think our tech team can devise a way to shut them down.

Draxler has entered the room unbeknownst to them.

DRAXLER

I can do better than that. We can reprogram their mechs to fight alongside our own.

HALL

Draxler--

DRAXLER

(puts hand up to cut him off)

Not right now.

ADHARA

How can you do that?

DRAXLER

Our program is simplistic. All we need is an EMP to shut down their prototypes. By the time they reboot, we will be able to network to them all and reprogram them using our simpler program, thus replacing the complex stuff they've got in their heads right now.

JARED

And that's it?

DRAXLER

That's almost it. I mean, we'll have control of all the prototypes. (pause) We think.

JARED

We think? That's definitely not going to cut it.

DRAXLER

(nervously)

I mean. We know. We just... can't be sure. You know. Because it's never been done before.

ADHARA

I think we have to try. This makes our plans better.

SIMONSEN

Yeah. Now we need to do an all out assault on NYC. If McKinney wants to be a hero, I say we make him a hero.

HALL

That will draw him out. And his entire army, too.

ADHARA

It's our only shot. How long do you need Draxler?

DRAXLER

We will have the locals up in about an hour.

ADHARA

And in the field?

DRAXLER

We'll need about 10 minutes to over ride their programming completely.

JARED

I think we can do that. Let's get everyone ready. This is going to be our final stand, whether it works or not.

SIMONSEN

The shit's about to hit the fan folks.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB

Programs are running. Prototypes are firing up. One by one they start to come alive and moving around. The programming is simple, so the robots are given simple commands that make them respond to the squad leaders, rather than having specific locations and skills programmed in.

The prototypes are moving around doing basic movements, checking out weapons. It is almost like they have been given consciousness for the first time. They are getting familiar with their basic movements and weapons.

A robot makes his gun come from out of his arm and is taken aback. Another robot shoots him in defense. He flips over backwards.

DRAXLER

(intervening)

Let's play nice guys.

As he pushes the robots apart, they seem to have no memory of the events. They are mindless drones for the most part. They have no emotional attachment.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The various soldiers are gearing up for war. They are checking and rechecking the mech suits and doing calisthenics to prepare for the fight of a lifetime. A group of soldiers are shadowboxing. Others are doing kung fu kicks and punches.

ADHARA

We have to be ready. He could strike at any moment.

JARED

I only hope that the others survive.

They reflect on this small conversation. They realize the gravity of the situation. They quickly change the subject.

ADHARA

Our team has to be with the bots that attack.

JARED

They've already identified the rest of you.

ADHARA

How did you avoid getting named with the rest of us.

JARED

I've been thinking about that. My guess is that they have a sinister reason.

ADHARA

It definitely can't be good.

JARED

It's less to explain. I haven't been in the unit long enough to have allegiances yet.

ADHARA

So you're either killed by us, or they just make you disappear after the battle ends.

JARED

(taken aback)

Yeah, I guess so.

ADHARA

I know it. I've watched McKinney do it. I just didn't realize that's what was going on until right now.

JARED

What'd you see him do?

ADHARA

(contemplative)

He shot a man in cold blood. He later told us he was a traitor.

JARED

It doesn't justify his actions.

ADHARA

There's no changing what he did. I can never erase that memory. I just always thought he held me in a higher regard than that.

JARED

It sucks to find out you're not as special as you thought.

They both sit down for a moment. There is an unspoken bond between them. Before they have a chance to discuss it any further, Tiffany interrupts them.

TIFFANY

I think Draxler and the techs are done with the bots.

JARED

Good. Let's load up.

TIFFANY

I think we're going to need more than just our helicARRIER to get the --

ADHARA

We're not making plans for backup.

TIFFANY

What?

Adhara stands up. She puts a hand on Tiffany's shoulder.

ADHARA

This is new for you. That's why I chose you. You were raw.

Tiffany looks wide eyed. She hadn't considered the possibility of dying.

ADHARA

This is our last stand. If we don't stop him, the world is going to change. Not to sound cliché, but this is our last hope.

Tiffany looks down for a moment.

TIFFANY

(sullen)

I understand. All the helicARRIERS are going with us.

ADHARA

Yes. Most of the bots are going with us, too.

TIFFANY

What happens if we fail?

JARED

(approaching from behind)

Then the world ends.

CUT TO:

INT. HELICARRIER - MOMENTS LATER

Alpha squad (Adhara's unit) is departing in order to launch the attack. They are completely silent as they fly to their destination, which is Times Square.

As opposed to other helicARRIER scenes, they do not speak to each other or have any jovial conversation. At one point, Johnson breaks the silence for a moment.

JOHNSON

Normally, this is where I try to talk some shit, but I just don't feel like it right now.

HELICARRIER

Arriving at destination in one minute.

ACT THREE

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - MID DAY

The team stands in front of the unmarked helicARRIER. There are 4 other helicARRIER loaded with hundreds of robots. They all exit the helicARRIERS. The markings from the helicARRIERS have been removed to maintain secrecy.

Pedestrians are taking pictures with their phones and running in every direction.

ADHARA

(yelling over the commotion)

Draxler, how do I get these things to do something?

DRAxLER

(yelling in response)

Just tell them very simple commands.

ADHARA

Do I have to call them something?

DRAxLER

Just say what you want them to do.

ADHARA

That's it?

DRAXLER

That's it. It's incredibly basic programming. I'm not a legitimate tech nerd.

ADHARA

Tear down some street signs.

The robots begin destroying street signs, traffic lights, crosswalk signals, and everything that is in sight. The destruction is fast and frightening.

Helicopters begin flying over. The media and police officers are already arriving on the scene.

A police car spins to a stop in front of a small group of robots. The cop props his door open and stands behind it with the CB in his hand.

POLICE OFFICER

(through the car
megaphone)

Freeze! This is the NYPD! Stand down, and put down all your weapons.

CUT TO:

Adhara speaks softly through her comm unit.

ADHARA

Take out the threat, but don't harm the humans.

The group of robots interrupts the police officer's speech by grabbing the car and hurling it like a frisbee down the street. The police officer is left standing there, holding the CB in his hand, which has now been disconnected from the radio that was in the car.

POLICE OFFICER

Holy shit!

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - SAME TIME

A marine busts into the room urgently. McKinney is sitting with Donaldson, having lunch. There seemed to be an awkward bit of tension in the air when the marine interrupted.

MARINE

(saluting)

Sir!

MCKINNEY

Oh cut the shit. What's going on?

MARINE

(looking awkwardly at
Donaldson)

We should speak in private.

MCKINNEY

Out with it.

MARINE

There's an attack in Times
Square.

MCKINNEY

(spits out something
he just bit into)

What kind of attack?

MARINE

It's the prototypes, sir.

DONALDSON

(irate)

God, dammit! I told you to handle
this McKinney!

McKinney turns toward Donaldson, glaring.

MCKINNEY

That's what I'm about to do.
Unlike you, I know when I need to
get my hands dirty.

DONALDSON

What's that supposed to mean?

MCKINNEY

Don't give me that bullshit! I'm
going to war. You get back in
your limo and go back to your
office.

McKinney storms out of the war room and the Marine goes with
him. They continue this discussion in the hall.

MCKINNEY

(walking)

Who's attacking who?

MARINE

It seems to be a domestic attack.
It's the prototypes.

MCKINNEY

How many casualties?

MARINE

None confirmed at the moment.

MCKINNEY

Assemble every squadron we have
available.

MARINE

What about the squads on special
assignment?

MCKINNEY

Just send the one special ops
team. All their support teams
need to be in Times Square with
us.

MARINE

So you want everyone--

MCKINNEY

Everyone! This is the last stand.
This is the OK Corral. This is
the last stand right here.

McKinney pushes open a door that says "GX-9 Units: Security
Clearance Required."

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - SAME TIME

There are police and media helicopters and vehicles
everywhere. The robots are causing damage to buildings,
vehicles and other property. They have not harmed any humans
as per Adhara's orders.

Adhara and her team are observing and waiting for the arrival
of McKinney's forces. As they are waiting for action, the
SWAT team arrives.

JOHNSON

Looks like our queue to get involved.

ADHARA

Use non-lethal force.

Immediately, the robots begin subduing officers. Three SWAT officers go down on non-lethal shots from robots.

DRAXLER

I guess I should make the programming a bit more complex next time.

ADHARA

I'd say so.

JOHNSON

(laughing)

I don't know. I kinda like these guys.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEADQUARTERS - SAME TIME

Four Special Ops Marines are dressed in all black. They have black face paint smudged all over their faces. They are approaching the building from the rear kitchen entry. They are moving from dumpster to dumpster to avoid being spotted. They use hand signals to communicate.

The group converges slowly, clearing each inch of the exterior of the building. They finally reach the rear door that says "Deliveries only."

The soldier in the rear comes to the front by the door and plants a small explosive. The explosive blows the door open. The four of them slowly enter the building.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

As the Special Ops Marines enter the Kitchen, they raise their weapons and hear a cacophony of guns being loaded and cocked.

In front of them is a group of 20+ armed Marines.

JOSHUA

I'd say you're out numbered.

The four look frustrated.

PORTER

Throw down your weapons.

The soldiers throw down their weapons.

HALL

We are taking you into custody
until we clear up some things.
You'll be released.

Hall signals to his men to arrest them. The men are apprehended without incident and led away.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - SAME TIME

A helicARRIER circles above the commotion and begins firing weapons immediately. Several of the robots are destroyed in the process. There are missiles and explosions everywhere.

ADHARA

Attack the helicARRIER. Use all means necessary.

Jared looks at the robots begin firing on the helicARRIER.

JARED

(smiling)
Don't get too used to this.

ADHARA

(smiling)
Don't give me a reason to use my robot army against you.

An explosion goes off just behind Adhara, knocking her to the ground. She rolls with the force naturally and catches herself on her feet.

She looks over her shoulder to see Jared engaged with some prototypes. It is impossible to tell which prototypes are McKinney's and which ones are Adhara's.

The battle intensifies. Weapons are being fired in every direction. Bullets are flying by Adhara, narrowly missing her. She returns fire at the robots she sees.

CUT TO:

Tiffany is struggling to fire her weapon. She is confused by the different robots that are around. She aims at one, then sees them firing at McKinney's helicARRIER.

The helicARRIER has now been struck and is smoking. The helicARRIER lands roughly, but not fatally. The door pops open and McKinney walks out the door. There are a few other men in mech suits behind him.

MCKINNEY

(confidently)

Find and kill them all. Take no prisoners. Save nothing.

The other mechs move through the streets ready to fire at will. Tiffany raises her weapon and fires at one. She hits him, he stumbles back. The mech returns fire, hitting her in the legs. He fires a quick burst of gun fire, knocking off part of her arm unit.

Tiffany struggles to get to her feet. Her comm unit is flashing red, telling her that things are not in working condition. She tries to raise her left arm to fire, but she can't get there in time.

Just before she is shot fatally, the mech is shot and falls to the ground. She looks over to see that Draxler saved her. He helps her to her feet.

DRAXLER

Run diagnostics.

TIFFANY

(repeating)

Run diagnostics.

DRAXLER

It will automatically repair what needs to be fixed. We just have to keep you out of harms way.

They look around.

TIFFANY

Ok. Let's go.

Draxler carries Tiffany over one shoulder and helps her walk to safety to recover. As they round the corner, there are 15 robots waiting for them. They turn to aim.

Before they fire, Johnson grabs one of them from behind and throws him at a few of the other robots. In an instant, three of them are gone. He shoots another through the chest and it powers down slowly. The remaining robots begin firing at Johnson.

JOHNSON

(to Draxler)

Get her the hell out of here!

Tiffany and Draxler go into a storefront that has had all the windows busted out. They drag their way through the store and hide behind the checkout counter for a few moments.

Tiffany's comm unit tells her that repairs will be made in 1 minute.

COMM UNIT

1 minute remaining.

DRAXLER

Can you shut that thing up?

TIFFANY

I don't think anyone can hear us
over the apocalypse.

They hear the sound of glass breaking under foot. A robot or mech is in the store with them. Draxler signals her to be quiet.

The tension is building. The two are visibly nervous about the intruder, hoping that they haven't been spotted. They hear the sound of glass under foot faintly. The intruder is leaving the store.

COMM UNIT

Repairs complete.

The footsteps stop. Tiffany and Draxler look at each other. Draxler counts silently.

DRAXLER

(mouthing)

Three - two - one.

On "one" they spring up and turn to face the intruder ready to fire. The mech is Johnson.

JOHNSON

(laughing)

You should see the look on your
faces!

Just then, a mech suit Marine shoots a burst of fire into Johnson's back and hits him with a combat knife in the base of the skull.

Johnson slinks down in his mech suit, dead. He falls over. Tiffany is in shock.

Draxler opens fire and kills the mech suit with a rapid burst of fire and a small explosive.

They approach Johnson.

DRAXLER

Johnson! Johnson!

They are shaking him. He's dead.

Tiffany begins crying.

TIFFANY

No! He can't be dead. He's
invincible.

DRAXLER

I'm afraid he's not.

TIFFANY

No!

DRAXLER

(to Adhara in Comm
Unit)

I need a few robots over here
now.

TIFFANY

What are they going to do?

DRAXLER

Get him out of here. No Marines
get left behind. Breathe. He
would want us to finish this.

Two robots enter the storefront. Tiffany draws her weapon ready to fire. She's frantic. Draxler holds up a hand and pushes her weapon down.

DRAXLER
(to the robots)
Take him to the helicARRIER.

The robots get Johnson out of the mech suit and carry him away.

DRAXLER
(to Tiffany)
Now let's finish this. I need you
to cover the store front.

TIFFANY
What are you doing? There's
nothing here.

DRAXLER
I need this mech suit. I think I
can get everything I need right
here.

CUT TO:

Adhara and Jared are in a fire fight with several robots.
They can't tell which ones are the good guys and which ones
are the bad guys.

CUT TO:

McKinney is also taking down robots. He is now the only human
left on his squad. He hasn't discovered that yet.

MCKINNEY
(into comm unit)
Blue team, check in.

McKinney blasts a prototype through a window of a store.

MCKINNEY
C'mon! Roll call!

McKinney turns and blasts another prototype through a light
post.

MCKINNEY
I guess I'm on my own.

Adhara and Jared have separated again and have begun picking
off prototypes that seem to be threatening.

ADHARA

(into comm unit)

Let us know how much longer you need.

JARED

(into comm unit)

I think we can hold them off for another minute or so.

Jared begins clearing an entire street single-handedly.

Adhara is clearing an adjacent street when she sees McKinney. She starts firing at him. He returns fire.

MCKINNEY

(yelling)

Is that you Adhara?

Adhara fires at him, narrowly missing his head.

MCKINNEY

(laughing)

Yeah, that's you. You know, I really am proud of you.

ADHARA

Shut up!

MCKINNEY

If you had just listened to me. If you were more reasonable. We could still be working together.

ADHARA

I will never work with a psychopath like you.

MCKINNEY

A psychopath? The Marines are the psychopaths. They want me to just keep killing everyone all over the world. I have a plan for peace.

ADHARA

A plan for peace? How is this peace? Keeping people living in fear?

MCKINNEY

You know, you can't make everyone happy. People don't know what's good for 'em anyway.

CUT TO:

Draxler is trying to program the robots. He has an auxillary cable running from his arm into the back of the mech suit of the dead Marine. There is a whirr of computer noises and there is code on his comm unit's display screen.

TIFFANY

How much longer is this going to take?

DRAXLER

I've almost got it.

There is a ding.

TIFFANY

What's that?

DRAXLER

The back door. I'm powering them down now.

TIFFANY

Oh my God, it's working.

CUT TO:

Jared is in the middle of fighting robots. As he pulls his weapon and turns to fire at a robot behind him, the robot's eyes go dark and it falls to the ground. He looks around to see that the other robots are falling. Some of the prototypes are unaffected.

JARED

(into comm unit)

Well, now we can tell which ones are on our side.

DRAXLER

(muffled)

Give me a minute. They're all about to be on our side.

JARED
(into comm unit)
Adhara, how are things over
there?

CUT TO:

Adhara and McKinney are still firing shots at each other.

ADHARA
(into comm unit)
Just peachy.

CUT TO:

Draxler is finishing up the programming.

DRAXLER
That should do it.

He unplugs the cable and stands up.

TIFFANY
That's it? It's over?

DRAXLER
Well, just about. There will be
some loose ends to tie up.

CUT TO:

McKinney is laughing at Adhara's latest shot. Another shot
whizzes by his head a bit too close.

MCKINNEY
(ducking)
Whoa!

Jared has arrived to help Adhara.

JARED
Give it up, McKinney! We've won!

MCKINNEY
You've won shit. I've got 3 more
squads en route.

ADHARA
You sure about that?

JARED
The skies look pretty empty.

MCKINNEY

(not convinced)

They'll be here.

ADHARA

I sure hope so.

Adhara charges McKinney and flies through the air. She kicks him in the chest with both feet and jumps into a back flip. She lands flat footed as McKinney fires a rapid burst of gunfire at her feet.

The blast knocks her down. McKinney immediately springs to strike her. She rolls out of the way and comes up with guns drawn firing at him. She hits him twice in the arms.

McKinney's suit starts to leak.

MCKINNEY

(laughing)

Come on, Adhara. Let's settle this. Just you and me. Tell your little boyfriend to go away.

ADHARA

Fine by me. I just don't think he'll leave. He wants to make sure your dead just as much as I do.

MCKINNEY

Do we really have to kill each other?

ADHARA

You made that decision when you shot me in the chest?

MCKINNEY

(laughing)

Aww, did I break your heart?

ADHARA

Only literally. I only have to kill you so you won't kill me.

MCKINNEY

Let's just bury the hatchet. We can still fix this thing.

ADHARA

I think we both know we're way beyond that.

MCKINNEY

Is this because I killed your dad?

ADHARA

That's a pretty big part of it.

MCKINNEY

You always were such a daddy's girl.

ADHARA

Why don't you leave my family out of this?

MCKINNEY

Your dad's the one that made this personal. I just wanted to save the world.

McKinney fires at her, striking her in the arm. Adhara's suit is now leaking.

ADHARA

You wanted to control everyone by fear.

MCKINNEY

Control is control. If I eliminated all war and ensured world peace, how is that a bad thing?

ADHARA

Rule by fear never works. Have you every taken a history class?

MCKINNEY

A bunch of weak leaders that didn't know what they were doing. And they sure as shit didn't have a lethal army of robots.

Adhara and McKinney are now both leaking. Their mech suits are starting to malfunction. McKinney's suit is barely functioning.

ADHARA

Did you see how quickly my Marine
just reprogrammed your entire
army?

MCKINNEY

That's what this whole damn
attack was about wasn't it?

ADHARA

I beat you at your own game.

MCKINNEY

That you did. I never expected
you to become a terrorist.

ADHARA

I only did it to save the world.
Right?

MCKINNEY

You are just like me.

ADHARA

No, I'm not.

MCKINNEY

Prove it.

McKinney powers down his mech suit and steps out.

MCKINNEY

You've got a choice. You can blow
me away while you're in the
safety of your suit, or you can
get out and face me like a man.

After a moment of silence, Adhara powers down her suit.

JARED

Adhara no! You don't have to do
this!

Adhara looks over at Jared as she steps out of the mech suit.

ADHARA

(to Jared first, then
to McKinney)

It's fine. I know what I'm doing.

MCKINNEY

You still think one of us has to die?

Jared has now powered down his suit and exited. he is staying close by to monitor the fight. He wants to get involved, but he knows that Adhara must face McKinney on her own.

ADHARA

I don't think I have to die.

MCKINNEY

(laughing)

Oh, just me?

ADHARA

For the world to be a better place? Yes. You have to be dead.

McKinney draws a pistol from his leg and tries to fire at Adhara. As he reached for the pistol she already sprung up onto the balls of her feet and started charging him in a zigzag pattern.

McKinney fires at her, but misses to her left. She continues her run and shoulder charges through McKinney. She drills him into the ground and flips over him. She turns to face him again.

McKinney has lost his gun from the force of the strike. The two stand, staring at each other.

Adhara charges at him again. He parries to the left and catches her with a right hook, knocking her to the ground. He raises his boot to stomp on her but she rolls onto her back and catches his boot with her hands, pushing him up and away from her. McKinney stumbles back to catch his balance.

Adhara quickly gets to her feet. McKinney charges her this time, trying to land a bull punch. She sweeps his legs from underneath him and he crashes forward to the ground.

She rolls quickly on top of him and lands a flurry of punches. She picks up his head and slams it into the ground several times.

MCKINNEY

(laughing and
girling)

Kill me!

ADHARA

I will!

Adhara pulls her pistol and puts it against his head. She breathes a few times.

MCKINNEY

You having second thoughts?

ADHARA

Yeah. But not like you're thinking.

MCKINNEY

Oh I know! If you kill me, you are just like me!

Adhara stands up, still holding the gun.

ADHARA

I don't have to kill you.

MCKINNEY

You're gonna let me rot in a military prison for the rest of my god damn life?

ADHARA

No. I mean, I don't have to kill you.

MCKINNEY

You're not going to let someone else do it!

Adhara says nothing. She hands the gun to Jared and walks away.

Jared walks over to McKinney, and puts the gun in the center of his forehead.

JARED

It won't just be an eye this time.

MCKINNEY

You mother--

Jared fires.

Jared joins Adhara. The two embrace. Draxler and Tiffany join them in the center of Times Square. Robots begin picking up all the scraps of the other prototypes. They also begin taking the fallen Marines and their mechsuits. They start to clear the streets.

The team boards the helicARRIER and the helicARRIER departs. The other helicARRIERS are left behind for the prototypes to continue the clean up process that they just started.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

The nightly news is playing on the Televiewer.

FEMALE ANCHOR

The attacks in Washington DC and Times Square were carried out by militant cyber terrorists. It turns out that Mark Johnson was actually infiltrating the group from within. Let's get more on this story with

The television report fades into the background as Jared cleans some of Adhara's scrapes and cuts. He has a basin with some peroxide and a rag that he's using to clean her face.

ADHARA

Ow! Could you be more careful?

JARED

(playfully)

You know, you're pretty soft for a Marine.

ADHARA

(flirting)

Oh, shut up!

The door opens. Donaldson walks in. Adhara and Jared are both taken aback. Jared stands and salutes immediately. Adhara follows his lead reluctantly.

JARED

(saluting)

Hoo-rah, Sir!

Donaldson looks unimpressed. He sits down and motions at the chairs for them to sit, too. They look at each other awkwardly, then sit down.

DONALDSON

Let me introduce myself, Sgt.
Bonnet.

ADHARA

You know me?

DONALDSON

(putting his hand
out, they shake
hands)

We all know you, Adhara. I just
wish we'd known a bit more about
what he was up to. I'm Master
Sergeant Dave Donaldson.

ADHARA

(awkwardly tries to
salute while still
shaking his hand)

Sir, I don't know what to say.

DONALDSON

You don't have to say anything.
I'm the one that should be doing
the talking.

ADHARA

(stunned)

Yes, sir.

DONALDSON

This will all be buried. The
Marines, the government, hell,
the whole nation... we owe you
and your team an inexpressible
amount of gratitude.

ADHARA

Just doing what a good Marine
does, sir.

DONALDSON

I'm deeply sorry for the loss of
Corporal Johnson. He was a very
good man and a damn fine Marine.

ADHARA

He was a good friend.

DONALDSON

I have no words that can make that better. What I can say is that your father's work is not dead. We are going to preserve his work. And we would like for you and Carter to stay on and run this thing.

ADHARA

I don't want to be in combat.

DONALDSON

This will be primarily for research and preservation. We don't expect you to do anymore combat at this point in your career.

ADHARA

Then I think I'll accept that offer, sir.

DONALDSON

(smiling)

You don't really have a choice, but I'm glad you're going to cooperate.

JARED

Sir, what are they doing with McKinney and his men?

DONALDSON

Well, most of them had no idea what he was doing, including myself. We intercepted his teams en route to Times Square. Once they were informed what was going on, they were shocked.

JARED

What about the others that were working with him directly?

DONALDSON

We believe we have them all.
We're still investigating, but it
looks like you killed most of
them. You definitely saved us
some time on the investigation,
that's for sure.

JARED

You're welcome, sir.

DONALDSON

For now, you guys take your time
recovering from these events.
Things will work themselves out.

Donaldson stands to excuse himself.

ADHARA

Sir, did you know my father?

DONALDSON

I did.

ADHARA

Can you tell me about him?

DONALDSON

I worked with your father for
years. I worked with McKinney for
years.

ADHARA

Were they good men?

DONALDSON

Your father was a good man.
McKinney I always wondered about
until today. I knew he was rough
around the edges, but I wasn't
sure he was a complete waste of a
person until today.

ADHARA

What about my father's weapons?

DONALDSON

We talked about that for a long time. He was right. We needed to keep these as mech suits. And we are going to now. He always wanted us to push to the next level.

ADHARA

Space?

DONALDSON

(smiling and laughing)

Yeah. Mars actually.

Adhara and Jared look at each other.

JARED

You were right!

DONALDSON

Of course she was. He talked about you all the time. He said it was your idea to take them to Mars.

ADHARA

Well, now we can try to do that.

DONALDSON

Best of luck to you both.

They both go to salute.

DONALDSON

Oh stop. It's me who should be saluting you.

Donaldson exits, leaving the two of them there in a darkened room. They look at each other. They embrace and share a deep kiss.

FADE OUT.